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Saturday, June 27, 2015

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Four page picture special - see pages 12/15

YOUR'E WRONG, POCH!



IT IS a competition that clubs are almost supposed to fear - but Saints should NOT be worried about the Europa League affecting their domestic form.

The tournament has become an often-maligned one in England during recent years, with the suggestion being that it significantly hampers the results of teams in the top-flight.

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EUROPA LEAGUE DOESN'T HAVE TO 'KILL YOU'

INSIDE



Terry Paine:
Ex-Saint writes
for you - Page 5



Seven great
pages of non
league inside

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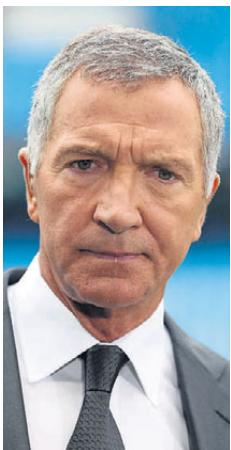


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Sorry Graeme, but no guarantee of Europa club decline

from front page

Former Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino once said the Europa League "kills you", while another of the club's ex-managers, Graeme Souness, claimed recently that it will undoubtedly damage the side's Premier League campaign.

"It's guaranteed to do that," he said. "You look at Everton this year."

"Any team that's involved in that Europa League, it has an impact on the league performance."

But just how true is that?

The Daily Echo has looked back at the results of English sides who have taken part in the competition, since it was revamped from the UEFA Cup in

2009-10, and they show that there is by no means a guarantee that Saints will regress next season.

In that time, 16 English clubs have competed in the group stages, either by earning direct entry to them, or getting there via the qualifying rounds, as Saints would have to do.

Excluded

We have excluded any side who did not advance through the qualifiers, due to them playing a negligible amount of games, or who dropped in from the Champions League at the knockout stages.

Additionally, two sides – Birmingham and Wigan – were relegated in the season they earned a Europa

League spot, and have therefore been discounted, as they were Championship clubs when they actually took part in it.

Of the remaining 14, nine did see their Premier League points total drop in the season that they played in Europe.

Most notably, Everton ended up 25 points worse off last season than in 2013-14, while Newcastle saw a 24-point drop off in 2012-13.

That sort of decline for Saints would undoubtedly put them in significant danger of relegation next season.

But, while those two cases are oft-cited examples, the reality is that the story elsewhere has been far from horrific.

Of the other seven teams who went backwards, six of them only saw their points total diminish by a small amount – five points or fewer.

Five teams even saw an improvement in their Premier League points total after qualifying for the Europa League – Manchester City in 2010-11, Tottenham and Fulham in 2011-12, as well as Liverpool and Spurs again in 2012-13.

On four of those occasions, the side in question had played 12 or more games in the competition.

So, while it is surely the case that the Europa League has the potential to negatively impact a club's domestic form, it is far from certain that it actually will.

Cherries to sign £8m Mings

CHERRIES are set to shatter their club record transfer by signing sought-after Ipswich Town defender Tyrone Mings.

The 22-year-old, who cost the Suffolk outfit just £10,000, is expected to pen a four-year deal after the clubs agreed a fee of around £8 million.

Although the figure is expected to be undisclosed, it dwarfs Cherries' previous highest, which was in the region of £2.5m.

Cherries paid big money for Callum Wilson and Tokelo Rantie and, although neither fee was revealed, both were believed to have been between £2m and £3m.

Mings, who was released by Southampton as a schoolboy, was also being tracked by Cherries' Premier League rivals Aston Villa, Newcastle and West Brom.

As part of the deal, winger Ryan Fraser will move in the opposite direction and join Ipswich on a seasonal loan with no recall option.

Brett Pitman is also expected to sign for the Tractor Boys, although his permanent move is not thought to be connected to the package.

Striker Pitman, who has a year left on his contract with Cherries having rejoined the club for £60,000 from Bristol City in January 2013, is likely to sign on a free transfer should he agree personal terms.

Mings played a starring role for Ipswich as they reached the Championship play-offs last season, eventually losing out in the semi-finals to Norwich.

He was signed after impressing



Saints midfielder Steve Davis takes on Tyrone Mings in an FA Cup tie at St Mary's last January.

boss Mick McCarthy during a trial in December 2012 and blossomed under the former Republic of Ireland manager's tutelage at Portman Road.

At the time, Mings had been turning out in the Southern League for Chippenham Town and combined playing semi-pro with his full-time job as a mortgage advisor.

Mings, who operates predominantly at left-back, reportedly became an £8m target for Arsenal and Chelsea, while Crystal Palace had a £3m bid for the defender rejected in September.

He has also hit the headlines for a series of selfless acts such as spending Christmas Day 2013 feeding the

homeless, donating tickets to fans and paying to replace the replica shirts of Ipswich supporters after his squad number had changed.

Cherries are also expected to announce the season-long loan signing of Chievo defender Filippo Costa who will join the club's under-21 squad.

European side totals

HERE is a list showing how playing in the Europa League group stage affected a side's Premier League form in terms of points accrued that season.

As you can see, Everton and Newcastle have been the two main losers.

2009-10

Fulham 46 points (down 7)
Everton 61 points (down 2)

2010-11

Manchester City 71 points (up 4)
Liverpool 58 points (down 5)

2011-12

Tottenham 69 points (up 7)
Stoke 45 points (down 1)
Fulham 52 points (up 3)

2012-13

Liverpool 61 points (up 9)
Newcastle 41 points (down 24)
Tottenham 72 points (up 3)

2013-14

Swansea 42 points (down 4)
Tottenham 69 points (down 3)

2014-15

Tottenham 64 points (down 5)
Everton 47 points (down 25)



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Non league FOOTBALL



Tipp happy with Totton & Eling's community status

RELEGATED Totton & Eling will make it their mission to get back to the Sydenhams top flight as soon as possible.

But chairman/co-manager Andy Tipp very much doubts they will ever aim for the Southern League heights because they have found their niche as a community club.

Although Winchester City were delighted last weekend when the FA offered them an unexpected promotion to the Southern One South & West, Tipp says that not every player is happier higher up the pyramid – Mark Osman being a prime example.

Osman, left, a cult hero of neighbouring AFC

Totton's ascent to the Southern Premier, raised a few eyebrows last term when he came out of retirement to aid T&E's Wessex Premier basement battle, albeit with injury stopping him in his tracks.

Local lad

"Speaking to Osey, he's a local lad who just wants to play football with his mates," said Tipp.

"When he signed for AFC Totton they were a Wessex League club, but they became a monster [going up the leagues] and he said he wasn't really enjoying it like he used to."

"I think Totton would have liked him back this season, but he's going to stay with T&E because he enjoys it here."

"That's what T&E is all about. We've found our place as a community club and I don't think we'd ever want to go into the Southern League at any point."

"If our young players get better and want to go off and play higher at some stage with AFC Totton or whoever, they can. We'll pick up lads either on the way back down or when they're young and coming through."

"We know exactly where we're based now and we're happy with that."

No relegation lifeline may be good for T&Es, says manager

Wessex League focus on balance below top flight

TOTTON & EING are determined to focus on the positives after being denied a possible Sydenhams Premier Division lifeline.

With Winchester City gaining a late promotion to the Southern League, history suggested that the second-to-bottom club might stay up in their place and keep Wessex top-flight numbers at an even 22, writes WENDY GEE.

Over the years several clubs have been spared the drop under similar circumstances but, on this occasion, the chief priority was to keep healthy numbers in Division One.

With both Alton Town and Portland United rejoining the league and AFC Stoneham coming up from the Hampshire Premier ranks, Sydenhams One has mushroomed from 15 to 18 teams for 2015-16.

There was an argument to say that the second flight could have run with 17, but SWL chairman Ian Hoare gave that suggestion a resounding "no" at Tuesday's AGM.

He said: "I look at Division One as being just as important as the Premier Division and we have to do everything we can to protect that status."

"I was really pleased when we got 18 [in Division One] and my own view is that it's right and proper to keep Division One as it is and have 21 clubs in the Premier."

While admitting it was "disappointing" to miss out on top-flight survival, T&E's chairman/co-manager Andy Tipp thinks it may turn out for the best in the long run.

The Millers struggled badly for the first part of last season with a young, inexperienced team on the field and a lack of bodies off it.

But the return of several T&E 'old boys' lifted the gloom and, buoyed by growing support from the club's youth section, the outlook is far brighter.



Andy Tipp, left.

"If we can keep our older players fit and rolling back the years we can take on anyone on our day," said Tipp.

"Hopefully the youngsters we've got coming through will step up to the mark."

"We're starting up a reserve team as well and going into the Wyvern League."

"We had two under-18 sides and one under-16 side last season which

would have meant starting this season with three under-18 teams."

"But we can now fill the reserves with youngsters we don't want to lose."

"Not having a reserve team is usually a decision of finance over heart, but all clubs really want one."

"A lot of our young lads are used to paying for football in any case and won't be averse to paying, so in that sense the reserve team will be a bit

self-sufficient – plus it will help the men's side."

Tipp added: "In some ways perhaps the club needed to take a backward step [into Wessex One]."

"We are where we are and we just have to get on and see if we can win it now. We've done it before."

"Some of the lads are excited about going into Sydenhams One because they know we'll win more games in that division."

Derbies in cup draw

THE draw for the 2015-16 Sydenhams Wessex League Cup has thrown up a host of tasty derbies.

Sholing – fresh down from the Southern League – are at home to Jay Keating's new-look Folland Sports in the first round with the winners hosting Laverstock & Ford for a place in the last 16.

Fareham Town will make the short first round trip to holders AFC Portchester, while the second round features local ties between Totton & Eling and Fawley AFC and the two Andovers, Town and New Street.

Sydenhams Wessex League Cup (dates to be confirmed) –

First round: Blackfield & Langley v Team Solent, Hamworthy Utd v US Portsmouth, Sholing v Folland Sports, AFC Portchester v Fareham Town, Alresford Town v East Cowes Vics, Bournemouth Poppies v Moneyfields, Pewsey Vale v Brockenhurst.

Second round: Romsey Town v Hythe & Dibden, Amesbury Town v Christchurch, New Milton Town v Cowes Sports, Whitchurch Utd v Newport IoW, Bemerton HH v Downton, Alresford Town or East Cowes Vics v Pewsey Vale or Brockenhurst, AFC Stoneham v Ringwood Town, Blackfield & Langley or Team Solent v Hamworthy Utd or US Portsmouth, Totton & Eling v Fawley AFC, AFC Portchester or Fareham Town v Alton Town, Sholing or Folland Sports v Laverstock & Ford, Andover New Street v Andover Town, Verwood Town v Lymington Town, Portwood Utd v Horndean, Bournemouth Poppies or Moneyfields v Tadley Calleva, Salisbury v Fleet Spurs.

Opening week's Wessex League fixtures – see back page.



Jay Keating

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE CONSTITUTION 2015/16

Premier Division: (21 clubs) AFC Portchester, Alresford Town, Andover Town, Bemerton HH, Blackfield & Langley, Bournemouth Poppies, Brockenhurst, Cowes Sports, Fareham Town, Fawley AFC, Folland Sports, Hamworthy Utd, Horndean, Lymington Town, Moneyfields, Newport IoW, Salisbury, Sholing, Team Solent, Verwood Town, Whitchurch Utd.

Division One: (18 clubs) AFC Stoneham, Alton Town, Amesbury Town, Andover New Street, Christchurch, Downton, East Cowes Vics, Fleet Spurs, Hythe & Dibden, Laverstock & Ford, New Milton Town, Pewsey Vale, Portland Utd, Ringwood Town, Romsey Town, Tadley Calleva, Totton & Eling, US Portsmouth.

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If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

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 D Forder, Southampton, Hants
 J Franklin, Southampton, Hants
 G Grinham, Southampton, Hants
 B Glass, Southampton, Hants

J Hobbs, Southampton, Hants
 E Houston, Southampton, Hants
 J Matthews, Eastleigh, Hants
 M Phillips, Southampton, Hants
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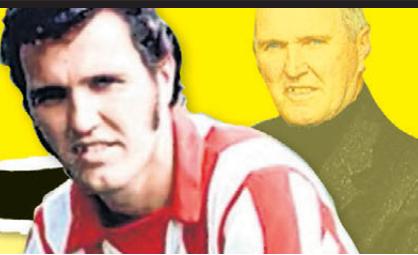
DAILY ECHO

Paine's World

The Saints legend's

EXCLUSIVE

column on all things football



Time for Everton to show more ambition

ALTHOUGH they saved themselves towards the end of the last campaign, Everton were in a precarious position above the relegation zone mid-season and manager Roberto Martinez was under pressure.

The Europa League excuse was bandied about again, with the generic reasoning that spending Thursday nights in the depths of Eastern Europe accounted for the abysmal campaign that Everton gave their fans.

The competition is not treated with adequate respect in England and this is often to the league's detriment.

However, Everton's 6-4 humiliation to Dynamo Kiev shows that it may not be about disrespecting the competition, but simply that they were performing so poorly they could not compete in even the second rate European competition.

With the clumsy touch of Romelu Lukaku and their wobbly defending, they did not look like a side capable of progressing beyond the last 16, even after a convincing win over Wolfsburg in the group stage.

The lack of ambition at Everton is bizarre.

Bill Kenwright may not invest as much as many others, but the club's loyalty to David Moyes was a sign of the limited ambition that continues to hold them back.

As sides like Southampton, Swansea and Stoke are looking to build upon their relatively recent promotions, Everton have been treading water for years.

None of the three clubs mentioned above have significantly more money than Everton, but the Blues are happier to accept mediocrity in both league position and performance.

Moyes' time at the club was not only static in progress – aside from finishing fourth in 2005 – but provided particularly uninspiring football.

At least in Martinez's first season there was a change to a more exciting style and greater faith in the younger players.

Following the permanent signing of the inconsistent Lukaku, the club slumped to sloppy performances in 2014-15 and were eventually flattered by their finishing position of 11th.

Although the signing of Lukaku was ambitious, there is a squad at Everton that should be competing for top seven places, regardless of Europa League football.

Ross Barkley's development has stunted and the chance to cash in on Leighton Baines has been missed.

The club is standing still while rivals are buying with intelligent scouting and making shrewd moves in the market.

The two young stars have disappointed, with both still looking very raw, and the pre-



Everton manager Roberto Martinez needs to lead his team to greater heights – and must improve his defence in order to do so.

viously reliable old guard have finally begun to show their age, as the likes of Gareth Barry and Tim Howard look as if they are starting to creak.

Now in need of a new keeper and having the burden of Barry's high wages when he is no more than a backup, there has been severely poor management of the squad from the Toffees.

The way the club is standing still leaves them at risk of losing three of their best

players – John Stones, Kevin Mirallas and James McCarthy.

Not to mention the consistent links between Seamus Coleman and a side with a regular shot at Europe. The loss of any of those three would be a significant setback to any ambition at Goodison, if it exists.

John Stones is likely to be an England regular for years to come, while James McCarthy is the midfield lynchpin that must form a partnership with Muhamed Besic if

Everton are to challenge for Europe again.

The biggest concern for Everton fans must be the wobbly defence of last season that was reminiscent of Wigan's during Martinez's time. The longer the defence is that open, the closer to the drop the Toffees will go.

In addition, Lukaku must begin to look like a centre forward worth his £28m price tag and develop the subtlety required to be one of Europe's best.

Non league FOOTBALL



Wessex under-21s league may be launched to recruit new faces

THE Sydenhams Wessex League are keen to launch an under-21 development league.

Open to Wessex clubs only, the plan is for the new league to be up and running for the 2016/17 season – provided there is enough positive feedback.

SWL chairman Ian Hoare explained: "Matches would be played on the club's own grounds and the league would be run just like our two senior divisions."

"It would be a Saturday league and there would be an opportunity for clubs to play three or four over-age players."

"If the interest is there, I will speak to the FA. We're not interested in running a reserve league, this a development league for under-21 players and we hope it will also help attract young officers into the league."

"With all due respect to our league officers, these gentlemen are all getting on a bit now and we need some

younger faces if we can find them."

The SWL is also running an e-learning club secretary course in conjunction with Southampton Solent University – again to encourage younger people into the fold.

"You see a lot of young people coming to clubs, all on their mobiles etc, but they never get involved," said the league's development officer Bob Purkiss.

The online course involves approximately five hours of study

which, when completed, would earn the student a Certificate of Achievement which they could present to the league.

Purkiss has also reminded clubs that students at The Lawrie McMenemy Centre for Football Research at Southampton Solent University are looking to get involved with clubs on week nights and weekends and would require only travelling costs for their services.

Director of football accepts promotion can cause issues

WINCHESTER City will be stepping into a more demanding level of football this season.

Yet, conversely, director of football Dave Malone reckons things might be that little bit easier for manager Paul Masters and his team in the Southern One South & West.

Promotion-hungry City had been preparing themselves for a third successive season in the Sydenhams Premier Division and, on paper, it was shaping up to be the toughest so far with phoenix club Salisbury and 2013/14 champions Sholing for company.

But, out of the blue, Winchester were offered a Southern League place at short notice following the withdrawal of Hellenic champions Flackwell Heath – and Malone believes that could well do the players a favour by lowering expectancy levels.

"We're over the moon to be going up and I think we deserve it for what we've achieved over the last two years," he said.

"The Wessex League was going to be tough to get out of this season and there was no guarantee we'd do it, so in a daft way this takes the pressure off us."

"We'd have been under a lot of pressure to win the Wessex League this season."

"Paul Masters is enthused to be going up and it's good news for a lot of the team because we do have players good enough to play at a higher level."

Malone, though, suspects that not every player will be in a position to switch from Wessex to Southern League football at such short notice.

"It's not all positive," he said. "Things will happen that are hard to deal with. It's late in the day to get promoted and there are bound to be some players who either won't or can't do the travelling."



Winchester's top goalscorer last season, Warren Bentley (right)

"Until we speak one-to-one with every player, there's always that doubt."

"Mind you, it works both ways."

"I've already had a call from a player who's interested in joining us because we're playing higher and I dare say we'll be looking at one or two players now that we hadn't considered before."

"Also, it gives us the opportunity to attract more people to the club."

Having been a Southern One South

& West club as recently as three years ago, City feel they can cope with the geography of the league – unlike Buckinghamshire-based Flackwell Heath.

Flackwell manager Graham Malcolm said he thought there should be three Southern Division Ones instead of two – one covering the south, one the west and one the central/midlands.

Malone agreed: "Geographically

the South & West is a pain in the backside, but we've got a good support base and we'll organise coaches with the fans. I'm convinced we'll do alright."

Southern League football will present a fresh challenge to master marksman Warren Bentley who, after knocking in goals galore for Alresford, again topped the Sydenhams scoring charts with 56 league and cup strikes for City last term.

Davis is new chair

MIKE Davis is the new chairman of Sydenhams Premier Division outfit Hamworthy United.

Committee member Davis, who works as finance director for Poole Lighting, was voted in at the club's AGM on Monday. He replaces Mark Bartlett who stood down due to increased work commitments.

Vice-chairman Bruce Scammell explained: "Mike has been involved behind the scenes for the past 18 months helping Shane (Traynor, manager) on the coaching side."

"What we like about him is he has a bit of everything."

"He is a young man with fresh ideas, good business experience and a football background. Hopefully he can drag in a few more people."

Meanwhile, United secretary Peter Gallop was made president of the Dorset Premier League at its AGM last week.

Poole out

POOLE Borough have been kicked out of the Dorset Premier League.

They are the second club to suffer that fate in successive seasons following the loss of their FA Charter Standard status.

Borough fell foul of stringent DPL rules which strips the status of clubs exceeding 80 disciplinary points or six misconduct charges in a season.

Their fall from grace follows Holt United's expulsion last season after they racked up 109 points, 31 of which resulted from one match against Hamworthy Recreation.

Welcome

WHEN it comes to giving referees a warm welcome, Whitchurch United are second to none in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

For the second season running the Longmeadow outfit have been honoured as the most hospital club by the SWL Match Officials' Association.

Adrian Knight handed over the Friendliest Club Award at Tuesday's chairmen and secretaries' meeting which followed the AGM.



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Non league FOOTBALL



Plan made to rely less on players from other teams

CALLUM Brooks plans to reduce New Milton Town's reliance on players from other clubs – even if it means a short-term dip in on-field fortunes.

The 30-year-old wants to kick off his third season in the Fawcett's Field hot seat with more personnel committed solely to the Linnets' Sydenhams One cause.

While Brooks still hopes to retain the services of dual-registered Poole Town youngsters Anthony Harris and Sam White, the manager is prioritising long-

term stability over bettering last season's sixth-placed finish.

"We will be very young this season and a bit more rough and ready," he said.

"I have rebuilt from scratch again, so we are not expecting miracles."

"Last season we borrowed so many players from other clubs, we lost a bit of focus."

"Your regular players must enjoy it and feel they are part of a tight unit and that's what I have prioritised this time."

"That said, we will be organised and



full of enthusiasm and our energy alone will get us some points."

Robbie Woolner, left, Paul Bayston, Tom Rees, Craig Barnett, James Shering and Matt Odell have all re-signed over the summer, with Jordan Hiscock joining the management team following a spell with Ringwood last season.

Ringwood pair Barney Gritt and Sam Chilman and Sam Rea are new in and Brooks is keen to integrate college footballers Dan Hicks, Josh Oramagno, Josh Hicks and Fabio Firetto.

Going for more gold

FORMER Sholing hotshot Lee White has another ex-Saint for competition at Gosport Borough.

Having lost one St Mary's old boy, Matt Paterson, to Havant & Waterlooville, Gosport have welcomed Jamie White into the fold. The 25-year-old, released by Sutton United at the end of last season, is one of the final pieces of the summer jigsaw for Gosport boss Alex Pike.

White, who hails from Harefield, Southampton, has had a rollercoaster career since his dream of a professional future at St Mary's was wrecked by injury and he was released in 2010.

His comeback only really got started when he banged in goals galore for Winchester City during their 2011/12 Wessex title-winning season, earning him moves to Salisbury City – where he finished joint top Conference South scorer for 2012/13 – and Bristol Rovers.

He joined Sutton United last summer, linking up with ex-Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell, but things didn't work out at Gander Green Lane and White ended the campaign on loan at Farnborough.

Pike, though, is confident White has not lost his goal-den touch. He said: "Two seasons ago Jamie was the golden boot winner in the league and helped Salisbury (City) get promoted. He will score goals for us, that I am sure."

Gosport have also signed midfielder Perry Ryan, released after four years with Havant & Waterlooville.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE Constitution for 2015/16

Premier Division: Bedworth Utd, Bideford, Biggleswade Town, Cambridge City, Chesham Utd, Chippenham Town, Cirencester Town, Dorchester Town, Dunstable Town, Frome Town, Histon, Hitchin Town, Hungerford Town, Kettering Town, Kings Lynn Town, Leamington, Merthyr Town, Paulton Rovers, Poole Town, Redditch Utd, St Neots Town, Slough Town, Stratford Town, Weymouth.

Division One Central: AFC Rushden & Diamonds, Arlesey Town, Aylesbury, Aylesbury Utd, Barton Rovers, Beaconsfield SYCOB, Bedford Town, Chalfont St Peter, Egham Town, Fleet Town, Godalming Town, Hanwell Town, Kings Langley, Leighton Town, North Greenford Utd, Northwood, Petersfield Town, Potters Bar Town, Royston Town, St Ives Town, Uxbridge, Ware.

Division One South & West: AFC Totton, Banbury Utd, Bashley, Bishops Cleeve, Bridgwater Town, Burnham, Cinderford Town, Didcot Town, Evesham Utd, Larkhall Athletic, Mangotsfield Utd, Marlow, North Leigh, Shortwood Utd, Slimbridge, Swindon Supermarine, Tauton Town, Tiverton Town, Wantage Town, Wimborne Town, Winchester City, Yeate Town.

Citizens promoted thanks to 11th hour league agreement

Deal included last minute commute to league's AGM

AFTER what league administrators described as "a week of turmoil" the constitution of the 2015/16 Southern Football League was finally settled last weekend – with Winchester City emerging as the "surprise" winners.

When Clevedon Town were relegated from Division One South & West due to floodlight issues, it had repercussions right across the south.

It was a win-win situation for Fleet Town and newly-promoted Sydenhams League champions Petersfield Town who, having initially been placed in the South & West, were shifted across to Division One Central by the FA.

In exchange, Flackwell Heath, Marlow and Burnham were shuffled over to the South & West, evening the two divisions up to 22.

But while Marlow and Burnham accepted the move, Buckinghamshire-based Flackwell, the Hellenic Premier champions, reluctantly turned down promotion because they say their travel bill would have shot up from £2,500 in the Central to £15,000 in the South & West.

The vacant place was subsequently offered to Redhill, who had finished second-to-bottom of the Ryman Division One South and had the chance of a reprieve from relegation. But they too believed the South & West would be a logistical nightmare from their Surrey base.

It was at that point that the FA contacted Wessex runners-up Winchester – with just hours to go before the Southern League AGM last Saturday.

Taking up the story, City's director of football Dave Malone said: "I was in the pub at 8pm last Friday when I got a call from our chairman Paul Murray.

"He told me the FA had just rung



Dave Malone

him asking if we would like to be in the Southern League and, if so, we had to be at the AGM at 11am on Saturday – in Torquay!

"I had to sober up quickly and we left at 5.30am to get down there. It came as a total and utter surprise for us to get that call, but then nothing

ever really surprises me in football.

"Getting to Torquay for 11am was one of the conditions and the second – and most onerous – condition was to settle a financial penalty incurred during the previous regime for fielding an ineligible player at Merthyr (when Winchester were last in the

Southern League three seasons ago).

"With literally minutes to spare, our chairman effected a substantial bank transfer to settle the matter.

"We were then assured that we will have a place in the Southern League and I cannot tell you what a relief that was!"

Non league FOOTBALL



Ashley Jarvis

Claridge strengthens squad with three new players

STEVE Claridge has added three more players to his Salisbury squad this week – two of them from Sydenhams Premier rivals Folland Sports.

New in at the Ray Mac are 27-year-old striker Ashley Jarvis and 22-year-old centre back Calum Brockway who, between them, racked up over 90 appearances for the Planemakers last season.

Striker Jarvis first came to Claridge's attention when the two were together at Brighton & Hove Albion – Claridge as a first-team player and Jarvis coming

through the youth system.

Since then the Southampton-based striker has featured for Burgess Hill, Gosport Borough, AFC Totton and Dave Diaper's Sholing, for whom he scored 34 goals in their Sydenhams Premier/FA Vase-winning season of 2013/14.

He spent last season back at Folland Sports, where he had previously banged in goals galore in his 'Batman and Robin' partnership with targetman Jamie Musselwhite.

Brockway is also a former Sholing

man, having progressed through the Boatmen's youth/reserve ranks. Like Jarvis, he is one of several players to have drifted away from Follands following the departure of long-standing managerial duo Danny Bowers and Dave Lewis.

The pair are joined in the Ray Mac arrivals lounge by wide right midfielder Claudio Herbert, 22, who played for Andover Town last term and was previously a junior with the old Salisbury City FC.

Keating talks up potential of three Planemakers signings

Boss expects trio to catch eyes of clubs up pyramid

JAY Keating has announced his first three "showcase signings" as manager of Folland Sports.

In forward David Jerrard, midfielder Scott Walters and defender Lee Phibbs he has the spine of a young side that he fully expects to capture the imagination of clubs higher up the football pyramid.

"We're not going to have a massive squad, but the youngsters will be elite players," Keating explained.

"I can showcase them and they will look a million dollars in the Wessex League."

At 26, Southampton-based centre-back Phibbs is the oldest of Follands' initial trio of signings, but it's the two younger lads, Jerrard and Walters, that Keating expects to get noticed.

Both were with him last season playing for Dorchester Town's reserves and Jerrard has already shown the damage he can do at Wessex level, scoring five goals in as many games dual-signed at Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

"David spent seven years with AFC Bournemouth as a youngster and [coach] Shaun Brooks loved him, but then he got a different coach at under-18s and lost his confidence," Keating explained.

"He then spent two years at the Sparsholt Academy [which runs in partnership with Saints] before coming down to me at Dorchester last summer. He was quite quiet at first, but he scored a ridiculous amount of goals and worked so hard.

"He's just turned 18, he's 6ft plus and he's going to be a real talent. He'll start the season with me at Follands, but I honestly believe a full-time club will get hold of him for their development squad. I bet you this time next year he's at a pro club."

Jerrard is not the only talent Keating is convinced will make a big



Lee Phibbs, right, playing for Ringwood

impression for the Planemakers this season.

He also has high hopes for defensive midfielder Scott Walters, who learned his trade playing for Benamiel in Malaga, where Real Madrid's Spain international Isco started out.

Originally from Birmingham, Walters has family in Poole, but his brand of football is distinctly Spanish.

"Scott spent 12 years with Benamiel, a feeder club for Malaga, and he's

learned tiki-taka and does everything simple," said Keating.

"I was helping Phil Simkin [former Dorchester boss] get some different players in and a friend of Scott's auntie, who lives in Poole, mentioned him to me.

"He was known at Dorchester as 'mini Glees' because he's similar to Jamie Gleeson [an ex-Saint who has just left Dorchester for Poole Town]. Defensively Follands should benefit

from the experience of 26-year-old Phibbs, who has been on the books of Ringwood Town.

"Lee's been taking it easy a bit, playing below the level he can," Keating explained. "We tried to sign him at Dorchester but he lives in Southampton and couldn't do the travelling.

"Frighteningly he'll probably be our oldest player at 26. You've either got money or youth these days."

Upcoming friendlies

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES 2015

Saturday, July 4
Hythe & Dibden v Liss Athletic
Winchester City v Gosport Borough
Bush Hill v East Boldre

Thursday, July 9
Clanfield (85) v Eastleigh (7.30)

Friday, July 10
Hythe & Dibden v Fawley AFC
Thatcham Town v Bemerton HH

Saturday, July 11
Alresford Town v Fleet Town (at Wellington, Eastleigh)
Blackfield & Langley v Fleet Town
Bush Hill v Sholing
Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth
Hythe & Dibden Res v Fawley AFC Res
Liss Athletic v Sholing
Otterbourne v New Milton
OK Southampton v AFC Totton Res
Salisbury City v Bristol Rovers
Winchester City v Sutton Utd

Tuesday, July 14
AFC Stoneham v Bashley
Basingstoke Town v AFC Wimbledon
Brockenhurst v AFC Totton
Hythe & Dibden v OK Southampton
Laverstock & Ford v Salisbury
Otterbourne v Whitchurch
Winchester City v Fleet Town

Thursday, July 16
Bush Hill v Totton & Eling (7.00)

Saturday, July 18
Brockenhurst v Thatcham Town
Bush Hill v Cowes Sports
Chichester v Winchester City XI
East Preston v Fareham Town
Knaphill v Winchester City XI
Havant & Waterlooville v Eastleigh
Hythe & Dibden v Sholing
OK Southampton v Michelmersh & Timsbury (2.00)
Moneyfields v Colliers Wood Utd
Sherborne v Bemerton HH
Sutton Common Rovers v Otterbourne
Tadley Calleva v Alresford Town (at Everest College)

Monday, July 20
Gosport Borough v Luton Town

Tuesday, July 21
Amesbury Town v AFC Bournemouth XI (7.30)
Blackfield & Langley v Downton
Brockenhurst v Bashley
Eastleigh v Newport County
Gillingham Town v Whitchurch Utd
Laverstock & Ford v QK Southampton
Otterbourne v Sholing Res
Salisbury v AFC Bournemouth
Thatcham Town v Petersfield Town
Winchester City v Eastbourne Borough

Thursday, July 23
Bush Hill v Lympstone (7.00)
US Portsmouth v Bemerton HH

Friday, July 24
Havant & Waterlooville v Petersfield Town

Saturday, July 25
Arundel v Sholing
Basingstoke Town v Aldershot
Bush Hill v AFC Burridge
Eastleigh v Oxford Utd
Hamble Club Res v Otterbourne
Liss Athletic v Fareham Town
OK Southampton v Sholing Res

Non league FOOTBALL



Spence joins former Spitfires contingent at Sutton

YET another former Eastleigh player has pitched up at National League South outfit Sutton United.

Us' boss Paul Doswell's final summer signing is right-back Dan Spence, one of seven players released by the Spitfires at the end of their debut Conference Premier season.

The 25-year-old, left, follows two others from that list, Craig McAllister and Dean Beckwith – plus Stuart Fleetwood – into Gander Green Lane where the likes of Glen Soutam and Jamie Collins are already part of the ex-Eastleigh brotherhood.

Doswell, himself a former Spitfire, said: "Dan

enjoyed an outstanding season playing in the Conference last year and was hoping to play at the same level or higher.

"We watched him many times last year and made him aware of our interest after his release.

Options

"Dan rightly wanted to see what his options were but, having seen Craig and Stuart sign recently, he's now happy to sign a two-year deal."

Spence originally signed for Eastleigh on a non-contract basis from Hayes & Yeading in February 2013, but had his season cruelly cut short because of damaged shoulder ligaments.

He signed his first Spitfires contract before the start of the 2013-14 campaign and was part of the side promoted as Conference South champions.

Having been released by Reading in 2009, Spence had joined Glenn Hoddle's Jerez-based academy in Spain and credits the ex-Saints and England boss with reviving his football career.

New Hawks hitman Hayter has scored fastest hat-trick

Striker was even faster than Sadio Mane last season

SHARPSHOOTING Sadio Mane was the talk of the Premier League when he rifled in his rapid-fire hat-trick for Saints against Aston Villa at St Mary's last month.

But the Sengalese winger, who struck three times in two minutes and 56 seconds during that extraordinary 6-1 demolition job, wasn't quite as quick on the draw as Havant & Waterlooville's new signing.

Isle of Wight-born hitman James Hayter holds the distinction of scoring English football's fastest ever treble.

He bounced off the bench against Wrexham in the old Division Two with just six minutes remaining in February 2004 - and promptly completed his hat-trick in just two minutes and 20 seconds.

The irony that night was that his mum and dad had already left Dean Court to catch their ferry back to the Island!

Hayter, now 36, is in the twilight of his career having totted up more than 600 Football League appearances for Bournemouth, Doncaster Rovers and Yeovil Town and banged in over 150 league goals.

During three years at Yeovil, he netted 29 goals in 137 appearances and was one of 13 players released by the Glovers' ex-Saints boss Paul Sturrock this summer.

Hayter, who will be managed by his ex-Cherries teammate Lee Bradbury at Havant, is one of three new strike arrivals at Westleigh Park. The Hawks have already signed ex-Saint Matt Paterson from Gosport Borough and Marvin Morgan from Plymouth Argyle as they look to build on last season's surge to the Conference South play-offs.

Welcoming the veteran hitman to the Hawks fold, Bradbury said: "James is a player who has scored throughout his career and will bring



James Hayter on the ball for Yeovil.

a lot of experience to the side. He's moved to the area and phoned to see if we would be interested. I had a chat with him and he ticked all the boxes."

● HAVANT & Waterlooville defender Ed Harris has been cleared of "biting" an opponent.

Both Harris and Chelmsford City's Mark Haines were sent off following an off-the-ball clash in the Conference South match at Melbourne Park in March.

Haines complained to the referee that he had been bitten – an accusation strenuously denied by the



Brookes is 'buzzing'

FANS' favourite Jason Brookes is "absolutely buzzing" after securing his future at Dorchester Town for the upcoming season.

Not only will the former Eastleigh and Bashley man remain a part of boss Mark Jermyn's Southern Premier squad, he is also set to take over as the Magpies' new community officer.

The midfielder coaches youngsters as part of his day job and he will be doing more of the same with Dorch.

Coaching the club's Ability Counts team also falls within Brookes' remit as he fills a position previously held by Calvin Brooks.

Lymington-born Brookes smiled: "You never know what's going to happen in the close season, but I'm absolutely buzzing about this.

"Having the community job as well gives me a bit more security with my football."



Jason Brookes

Coach call by Ladies

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Ladies are seeking a reserve team manager/coach for the 2015/16 season.

The club aim to enter a second string team in the FA Women's Premier League Reserve Section South.

Applicants must have a minimum level one coaching qualification.

The position will be subject to a full DBS disclosure check and the successful applicant will hold a safeguarding children certificate or have successfully completed an FA course.

Experience of managing a ladies' team would be an advantage.

Anyone interested can forward their CV to either club chairman Mike Castle at ohcomeonref@gmail.com or first-team manager Adam Lee at ssglfcfirstteam@hotmail.co.uk.

Non league FOOTBALL



Hythe & Dibden's Dave Cox

Wessex League's dinner-dance could be rotated round the region

THE Sydenhams Wessex League have promised to act on a suggestion by Hythe & Dibden chairman Dave Cox to move the annual dinner-dance around the region.

There has been simmering anger among league officials over some clubs shunning the end-of-season bash – not least because it's a slap in the face for sponsors Sydenhams.

But Cox believes part of the reason people stay away is that the event is invariably held in Southampton, leaving many clubs facing either a long journey home or the expense of an overnight stay.

Speaking at Tuesday's SWL annual general meeting at Totton Sports Club, Cox said: "Every club comes here for the AGM and to Southampton for the dinner-dance and I would like to suggest that we move it around a bit to the north of Hampshire, Bournemouth, Portsmouth etc to make it easier for the other clubs and not just the Southampton teams."

SWL chairman Ian Hoare said the dinner-dance would be staying in Southampton next season as a date and venue had already been set, but he added: "I respect what Dave [Cox] has said. Next year's

booked but, after that, we'll look to move it around."

In the meantime clubs have been told they will each receive four dinner-dance tickets which they will be expected to pay for unless they have a very good reason not to attend.

Warned

And Hoare warned that any club due prize money at the end of the season would forfeit that cash if they didn't turn up at the presentation night.

"I think it's a disgrace for the sponsor to put all that money in and then not be able to give it to the people who've won it," he said.

"Sydenhams mean a lot to this league – an awful lot – and we should support them.

"One night of the year to back Sydenhams is not a lot to ask, it's just respectful.

"If we should lose Sydenhams as sponsors, I can promise clubs they will get a real surprise when their invoice comes through [for all the things Sydenhams' money currently pays for]."

Bringing in Brooks does not undermine me - Killick

'I'm only doing what's best for Poole Town'

MANAGER Tom Killick says it was his decision to draft in ex-AFC Bournemouth boss Shaun Brooks as head coach of Southern Premier outfit Poole Town.

The Dolphins announced this week that Brooks, 52, had been added to their backroom staff and that the rest of Killick's support cast would remain unchanged.

Killick acknowledged public perceptions over Brooks's new role could be shaped by ex-Cherries chairman Eddie Mitchell's presence at Tatton, but he quickly rebuffed any suggestion that his position had been undermined.

Brooks was promoted from head of youth at Cherries to the top job alongside Paul Groves, initially on a caretaker basis, in March 2012.

Despite landing the permanent roles, the pair were relieved of their duties within seven months and returned to the youth ranks.

Mitchell, who also employed Brooks during his time in charge of Dorchester Town, acquired a two-year option to buy Poole in December 2013, weeks before Brooks and Groves left Dean Court.

Last season, former Winchester City manager Brooks took on an informal coaching role with the youngsters at Dolphins and was on the sidelines with Killick during their run to the FA Youth Cup first round proper.

And long-serving Tatton boss Killick was adamant that connection had persuaded him to hand Brooks an official title.

In a candid interview with The Pink's sister paper The (Bournemouth) Daily Echo, Killick said: "I am happy to have Shaun on board and look forward to working with him. I think he will help us and that is all I am looking at."

"It is my own appointment. Contrary to what some people are saying,



Shaun Brooks

Eddie (Mitchell) doesn't have a direct role with the club at the moment.

"The aim was to draft in some coaching expertise.

"It is well and good looking at what you can do better on the pitch but that has to extend beyond the playing side of things.

"It is about the input the players are getting, there is no point doing

everything the same and expecting a different outcome."

Killick continued: "At some point I am going to leave my position, whether that is in one month or 10 years. Until that happens, I have to do what is best for the team and this appointment is purely a question of doing that."

"I want the club to be as successful

as it can be and I make my decisions based on that."

"Say I had an opportunity to sign a really experienced player that had managed at another club?"

"Would I not sign them?"

"I make decisions to try and make the football team better."

"That is my job and all I am interested in."

Cox signs at Staines

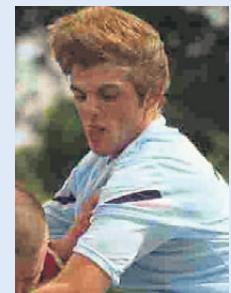
SHARPSHOOTER Pat Cox has penned a one-year deal for Ryman Premier new boys Staines Town.

The 25-year-old former Salisbury, Gosport and Basingstoke forward saw out last season playing for Craig Davis at Fleet Town.

Now he is delighted to be linking up with boss Nicky Forster at Wheatsheaf Park as the relegated Swans plot a swift return to the Conference South.

"I had a few options, but Nicky has shown a keen interest in me and he is one of the main reasons I signed," said Hampshire-based Cox.

"I used to watch him when I was a youngster at Reading."



SYDENHAMS Wessex champions Petersfield Town have announced their first new signings in preparation for life in the Southern One Central.

Manager Ian Saunders has bolstered his squad with Howard Neighbour, Ryan Woodford, above, and Josh Taylor.

Neighbour boasts an excellent goalscoring pedigree with Pagham, Stirling Lions (Australia), Bognor and Arundel, while Woodford can fill either a defensive or midfield role.

A former England Colleges captain, Woodford was at Andover and Eastleigh earlier in his career. Worthing and Horsham also feature on his CV and he most recently played for Chiswick in Ryman One South.

Taylor, an energetic midfielder, has represented The Army at both under-23

Non league FOOTBALL



Director has plans to reignite Wimborne's ambitions

NEW director Steve Harvey has vowed to provide Wimborne Town with the "rocket" to help boss Steve Cuss reach for the stars.

Former Hamworthy United chairman and Poole Town director Harvey, 59, admitted the Magpies' ambition had been stifled since Paul Miller relinquished the helm of the Southern One South & West club 12 months ago.

The new man played down the prospect of taking the hotseat him-

self, but promised to get cracking on boosting Cuthbury finances.

"It will be a big challenge. We have lost our way a bit over the past 12 months since Paul decided to stand down," he said.

"Wimborne is a great club with so many corporate opportunities."

"One of my first objectives is to try to get the sponsorship going and I am working hard to get people I know on board."

"The main thing I am looking to do



is get things on a solid business footing and give (team manager) Steve Cuss (pictured left) some money to move things on. But we are a long way from shouting about how wonderful we are and what we are going to do.

"The club have a lot of good people who have been there for a long time, they just need an interfering so-and-so like me to sort a few things out. It is a great opportunity and a great football club, it just needs a rocket."

Target for stalwart

PROUD Portland United skipper Lewis Whyton believes the Blues will take the step up to Sydenham One confidently in their stride next season and is targeting a top-eight finish.

The Island stalwart cannot wait to lead his troops into battle after Portland finished runners-up in the Dorset Premier League.

"I have been with the club for around ten years and I kept saying we should go up and it's finally happened," he smiled.

"I've always wanted to go back into the Wessex and captain Portland."

Whyton was part of the Blues squad that last played in the Wessex Premier ranks in 2005/06 and he recalled: "It was a bit of a struggle. We just couldn't get the players."

"A lot of people and clubs in those days used to pay a lot of money."

This time, though, he is optimistic they can be competitive.

"Obviously we are in Wessex One, but we will eventually aim to get back to the Wessex Premier," he remarked.



Lewis Whyton

Contract cancelled

PERRY Ryan has had his Havant & Waterlooville contract cancelled by mutual consent after four years at Westleigh Park.

The gritty midfielder, a graduate of Portsmouth's academy, played 150 games and scored 11 goals for the Hawks but found himself on the fringes towards the end of last season.

● **FORMER** Salisbury City defender and skipper Glenn Wilson has joined National League South newcomers Margate after parting company with Aldershot Town.

The 29-year-old right-back/centre-back played 48 times for the Shots last season and captained the club in their Hampshire derby against Portsmouth in the FA Cup first round.

Dolphins boss is relieved to keep talented squad intact

Club boosted as Burbidge and Brooks will stay

TOM Killick reckons Poole Town have fired the ultimate signal of intent ahead of the new season – by protecting their nest of talent from circling vultures.

Killick this week revealed he had finally beaten off competition from Southern League heavyweights Weymouth to retain midfielder Marvin Brooks, while Luke Burbidge has agreed terms despite a "lucrative" offer from Conference South outfit Gosport Borough.

Burbidge has always been reluctant to pen contract terms, but the 19-goal wideman has been persuaded to commit this time round.

"As I understand it, the offer Gosport made Luke was a lucrative one, so I was pleased he decided to stick with us and he is going to sign a contract this time," said Dolphins boss Killick.

"I was concerned about the prospect of losing him; I really didn't want that to happen."

As for Brooks, Killick felt it was important not to lose him to a direct rival in the Southern Premier Division.

"Losing a senior player to a rival would have sent out the message that they might be a better option, a scenario that would have cast a cloud over the whole group – and it wasn't just Marvin's situation," he said.

"There would have been a number of lads who had interest from elsewhere, which was why I was so pleased to be able to retain them all."

"When you have a strong group of players, they do not want to see one of our mainstays go to a rival."

Killick is close to finalising deals for defenders Lewis Tallack and Lewis Lindsay, with goalkeeper Nick Hutchings expected to stay put once he returns from travelling.

Keith Emmerson should be available more frequently next season



Luke Burbidge celebrates a goal for Poole

and ex-AFC Totton bright spark Luke Roberts has agreed terms.

"I am not looking to bring anyone else in," Killick continued.

"To retain pretty much all the players from last season and to add two top quality players in Jamie Gleeson and Alan Connell was big for us."

"Carl Preston is back from injury, so that will be like a new signing."

● **EASTLEIGH** will unveil their new kit at their free annual family fun day on Saturday, July 11.

The event will run from 10am until late at the Spitfires' Silverlake Stadium home in Stoneham Lane.

It will coincide with an over-50s walking football festival, sponsored by SAGA, which kicks off at 10am and culminates in a 5pm final.

There will also be a steel band, candy floss stall, Subbuteo competition, signed football raffle and 70s evening disco.

Big event a huge success

UP-AND-COMING young sports stars from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight lined up in their own sporting competitions.

Over 2,000 young people competed in the Hampshire Games, part of the Sainsbury's School Games initiative, across a range of sports at Aldershot's military facilities.

The sports included Athletics, Basketball, Boccia, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, New Age Kurling, Rounders, Swimming, Tag Rugby, Tennis, Tri-Golf, Trampolining, Volleyball, Canoeing and Panathlon.

In attendance at the School Games opening ceremony was Team GB World Champion 400m runner, Lesley Owusu and England Women's Rugby World Cup winner Claire Purdy.

The Sainsbury's School Games is a unique opportunity to motivate and inspire millions of young people across the country to take part in more competitive school sport.

The Games are designed to build on the magic of London 2012 to enable every school and child to participate in competitive sport, including meaningful opportunities for disabled



Action from the boccia event.

youngsters.

The Games is backed by National Lottery funding through Sport England.

They are fully inclusive and increases the opportunities for young people to take part in sport throughout the year; offering some young people their first taste of county-wide competition.

The Games also provided a Challenge Zone for young people and spectators to try various different activities throughout both days including a climbing wall, mountain biking, Tchoukball, Smoothie bike, Handball, Golf and Archery.

Councillor Peter Edgar, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education, declared this year's event an outstanding success. "What a marvellous day," he enthused.

"To see children and young

continued on facing page

HAMPSHIRE YOUTH GAMES HAMPSHIRE YOUTH



East Hampshire with their gold medal for rounders.



An Eastleigh and Winchester area rower



Volunteers line up at the opening festival



Tri golf fun with Basingstoke youngsters



Action from the hockey field – Eastleigh and Winchester.



Trying to get the highest score in the Panathlon challenge



At the panathlon challenge with Paralympian Helen Turner



Youngsters enjoying themselves at the Youth Games

DAILY ECHO AND SPORTS PINK - ALWAYS SUPPORTING YOUTH SPORT

GAMES ... HAMPSHIRE YOUTH GAMES ...



North East Hants with their rounders medals



New Age Kurling



Basingstoke with their rounders medals



A Southampton rower on the water



A New Forest team at the opening ceremony with Cllr Edgar



A study in concentration in New Age Kurling



Drummers at the opening festival



An Isle of Wight girl hits out at rounders

Inspiring event for children

from facing page

people of varying ages and abilities, from all over the county, taking part in such a diverse range of sports was absolutely fantastic.

"It was clear that everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and their enthusiasm was infectious.

"Yet another excellent example of partners working together for the benefit of the young people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

"Congratulations to Sport Hampshire & IOW for making it such a success."

Owusu added: "It's phenomenal that young people get the chance to have a taste of so many different sports.

"Having a multi-themed event like this, whether your running, jumping, throwing, swimming... whatever your passion or interest is, they can try a sport that they're good at and also be competitive in that element and be able to stretch and push themselves."

Chair of the Local Organising



A Portsmouth girl on the football field

Committee, Anna Dawson, said: "The Hampshire Games continues to grow year on year and the level of commitment and dedication of the children this year has been exceptional.

"Every child should leave the games feeling inspired to continue to take part in sport and physical activity and relish the opportunity to compete against others.

"The Local Organising Committee is proud to be helping children gain experience in friendly competition throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight."

The School Games is sponsored by Sainsbury's and supported by a range of partners including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Youth Sport Trust, Department of Health, Department for Education and is backed by National Lottery funding through Sport England.

Over £128m of Lottery and Government funding is being invested to support the School Games.

Results: See next pages

MORE HAMPSHIRE YOUTH GAMES PIX ON NEXT PAGES

HAMPSHIRE YOUTH GAMES RESULTS

Athletics MLD/EBD/HI/ASD: 1st Samuel Cody 1, North East Hants; 2nd Dove House 3, Basingstoke; 3rd Samuel Cody 2, North East Hants; 4th Baycroft Fareham; 5th Dove House 1, Basingstoke; 6th Dove House 2, Basingstoke; 7th Lakeside Eastleigh & Winchester; 8th Cliffdale, Portsmouth; 9th Tadley Court Basingstoke

Athletics Track Finals U13 Boys: 1st Churchers, East Hants; 2nd Brookfield Fareham; 3rd Robert Mays Basingstoke

Athletics Track Finals U13 Girls: 1st St Swithuns Eastleigh & Winchester; 2nd Churchers East Hants; 3rd Mountbatten Test Valley

Athletics Track Finals U15 Boys: 1st St Noadswood New Forest; 2nd Swanmore South Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd Yateley North East Hants

Athletics Track Finals U15 Girls: 1st St Swithuns Eastleigh & Winchester; 2nd Noadswood New Forest; 3rd Perins East Hants

Basketball 5&6: 1st Meon Junior Portsmouth; 2nd Elvetham Heath North East Hants; 3rd Botley South Eastleigh & Winchester; 4th Mardon Eastleigh & Winchester

Boccia Inclusive K5: 1st Cedar Southampton; 2nd St. Neots North East Hants; 3rd Cliffdale Portsmouth; 4th Shepards Down Eastleigh & Winchester

Boccia Inclusive KS3: 1st Cedar Southampton; 2nd Osborne Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd Kings Eastleigh & Winchester; 4th Ickfield Test Valley; 5th St. Francis IOW

Canoeing: 1st Westgate B Eastleigh & Winchester; 2nd Westgate A Eastleigh & Winchester

Football: 1 Solent junior Portsmouth; 2 Heane Havant; 3d Liphook Junior East Hants; 4th Meoncross Fareham; 5th St. Josephs North East Hants; 6th Springhill Southampton; 7th St. Francis IOW; 8th Cadland New Forest; 9th Cattie Hill Basingstoke; 10th Castle Fareham; 11th Gomer Gosport; 12th Shakespeare Eastleigh & Winchester; 13th Newchurch IOW; 14th Oakley Basingstoke; 15th Anton Test Valley; 16th Copnor Portsmouth; 17th Velford North East Hants; 18th Hatherworth Test Valley; 19th Fair Oak Junior South Eastleigh & Winchester; 20th Holy Family Southampton; 21st Bransgore New Forest

Golf 5&6 (Tri): 1st Manor North East Hants; 2nd Bassett Green Primary School Southampton; 3rd Otterbourne Eastleigh & Winchester; 4th Corpus Christi Portsmouth; 5th Endeavour Test Valley; 6th Rucstall Basingstoke; 7th Haylands IOW; 8th St. Johns Fareham; 9th Nursling Test Valley; 10th St. Johns Basingstoke; 11th Sharps Copse Havant

Golf 5&6 (Tri): 1st Corpus Christi Portsmouth; 2nd St. Peters Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd Bassett Green Primary School Southampton; 4th Harestock Eastleigh & Winchester; 5th St. Peters Havant; 6th Nursling Test Valley; 7th Bembridge IOW; 8th St. Johns Fareham; 9th North Waltham Basingstoke, 10th Shalfleet IOW; 11th Wellstead South Eastleigh & Winchester

Gymnastics: 1st South Wonston Eastleigh & Winchester; 2nd Fareham; 3rd Cuperham Test Valley; 4th Queens Inclosure Havant; 5th St. Swithuns & Corpus Christi Portsmouth; 6th Thornhill Primary Southampton; 7th Nightingale Eastleigh & Winchester

Hockey: 1 All Saints North East Hants; 2 St. Albans Havant; 3 St. Francis IOW; 4th Abbottswood New Forest; 5th Northern Parade Portsmouth; 6th Knightwood Eastleigh & Winchester; 7th North Waltham Basingstoke; 8th Titchfield Fareham; 9th Barksbury Test Valley; 10th Newlands Southampton; 11th Hook with Warsash Fareham; 12th Kempton Basingstoke; 13th Abbottswood New Forest; 14th Lympstone New Forest; 15th Greatham East Hants; 16th Hatherworth Test Valley; 17th Nettlestone IOW; 18th Otterbourne Eastleigh & Winchester; 19th Fair Oak South Eastleigh & Winchester

Netball (High 5): 1st Hordle 1 New Forest; 2nd Sarsbury Green Fareham; 3rd Hordle 2, New Forest; 4th St. Peters Eastleigh & Winchester; 5th Court Lane Junior Portsmouth; 6th Manor North East Hants; 7th Corpus Christi Portsmouth; 8th Hatherworth Test Valley; 9th Hook with Warsash Fareham; 10th Greatham Primary East Hants; 11th Orchard New Forest; 12th Scantabout Eastleigh; 13th Bergshire Basingstoke; 14th St. Marys Basingstoke; 15th Hordean Juniors Havant; 16th Nineacres IOW; 17th Alverstoke continued on facing page

Hampshire Youth Games ... Hampshire Youth



A Test Valley gymnast



Volleyball action



North East Hants with their rounders medals

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SAYS.
PRIDE IN OUR KIDS.



New Forest rugby action



Well played – New Forest rugby youngsters



Southampton rounders medallists



Hockey action – Eastleigh and Winchester



Portsmouth basketball gold medallists

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Games ... Hampshire Youth Games ...



Test Valley gymnasts



We have take off in the gymnastics events



Standing proud – a Test Valley gymnast



Having a go at Boccia



Lesley Owusu, second left, and Claire Purdy, second right.

CONTACT THE DAILY ECHO SPORTS DESK ON 02380 424515

from facing page

Gosport: 18th Andover CofE Test Valley; 19th Fair Oak South Eastleigh & Winchester; 20th Cowes IOW; 21st Thornhill Southampton

New Age Kurling (KS2): 1st Cedar Southampton; 2nd Cliffdale 2 Portsmouth; 3rd Shepards Down Eastleigh & Winchester; 4th Cliffdale 1 Portsmouth

New Age Kurling (KS3): 1st Ickfield Test Valley; 2nd Osborne Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd Kings Eastleigh & Winchester; 4th Cedar Southampton

Quad Kids: 1st Abbottswood New Forest; 2nd Berrywood South Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd St. Mary's Basingstoke; 4th Townhill Southampton; 5th Western Eastleigh & Winchester; 6th Compton All Saints Eastleigh & Winchester; 7th Wicor Fareham; 8th St. James Havant; 9th Haylands IOW; 10th Gurnard IOW; 11th Nursing Test Valley; 12th Craneswater Portsmouth

Rounders 7&8: 1 Perins East Hants; 2nd Kings Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd Portsmouth Grammar School Portsmouth; 4th Mountbatten Test Valley; 5th Hordean Juniors Havant; 6th Costello Basingstoke

Rounders 9&10: 1st Portsmouth Grammar School, Portsmouth; 2nd Kings Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd The Hurst Basingstoke; 4th Petersfield East Hants; 5th Hordean Juniors Havant

Swimming 3&4: 1st Otterbourne Eastleigh & Winchester; 2nd Bishops Waltham South Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd Corpus Christi Portsmouth; 4th Sarisbury Green Fareham; 5th Craneswater Portsmouth; 6th Hordean Juniors Havant

Tug Rugby 5&6: 1st Marchwood New Forest; 2nd Lympstone New Forest; 3rd St. Swithun's Portsmouth; 4th St. Peters Eastleigh & Winchester; 5th Whiteley Fareham; 6th St. John the Baptist Test Valley; 7th St. Martins Basingstoke; 8th Elvetham Heath North East Hants; 9th Sherbourne St John Basingstoke; 10th Mayville High Portsmouth



New Forest rugby action

Tennis 3&4: 1st Sherbourne St John Basingstoke; 2nd Botley South Eastleigh & Winchester; 3rd Orchard New Forest; 4th Springhill Southampton; 5th Hordean Juniors Havant; 6th Gomer Gosport; 7th Yarmouth IOW; 8th North Badsey Test Valley; 9th Brockenhurst New Forest; 10th Whiteley Fareham; 11th St. Johns Fareham; 12th St. Mary's Basingstoke; 13th Manor North East Hants; 14th Greysott East Hants; 15th Weeke Eastleigh & Winchester; 16th Nightingale Eastleigh & Winchester

Trampolining Boys 9&10: 1 St. George Catholic College Southampton

Trampolining Girls 7&8: 1st Portchester School Fareham; 1st St. George Catholic College Southampton; 2nd Mountbatten Test Valley; 3rd Portchester School Fareham

Trampolining Girls 9&10: 1 Redbridge Southampton; 2nd Mountbatten Test Valley; 3rd Redbridge 1 Southampton; 4th Redbridge 2 Southampton

Volleyball Boys 9&10: 1st Priestlands 1 New Forest; 2nd Priestlands 2 New Forest; 3rd Priestlands 3 New Forest; 4th Crestwood Eastleigh & Winchester; 5th Westgate Eastleigh & Winchester; 6th Westgate Eastleigh & Winchester

Volleyball Girls 9&10: 1st Priestlands 2 New Forest; 2nd Priestlands 1 New Forest; 3rd Crestwood 1 Eastleigh & Winchester; 4th Priestlands 3 New Forest 5th Crestwood 2 Eastleigh & Winchester; 7th Crestwood 3 Eastleigh & Winchester; 8th Crestwood 4 Eastleigh & Winchester

Did You Know?

So, who is Ian Walker?

SO, who is Ian Walker?

The first ever Brit to skipper a Volvo Ocean Race winning boat was born in February 1970 in Worcester and is one of Britain's most successful sailors.

At the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Walker won silver in the 470 class along with John Merricks.

He won bronze with Merricks in the 470-European-Sailing-Championship the same year.

Tragedy struck in October 1997 when both Walker and Merricks were passengers in a minivan in Italy when the driver lost control, and Merricks was killed. He was only 26.

In 1999, Walker began sailing with Mark Covell and a year later, at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, the pair won the silver medal in the Star class.

When Britain launched its first bid



Ian Walker with his daughter during one of the Volvo Ocean Race stopovers.

for the America's Cup for 14 years in 2000, Walker was named as the skipper.

In the 2007 America's Cup he joined fellow Olympic medallist Iain Percy, from Winchester, as the tactician of the Italian team +39 Challenge.

In 2008/09 he was the skipper of the Green Dragon boat in the Volvo Ocean Race, finishing fifth out of eight competitors.

In 2011/12 Walker skippered Abu Dhabi's first entry in the Volvo Ocean Race.

This time he finished fifth in a six-strong fleet.

Walker's third Volvo Ocean campaign ended with him skippering Abu Dhabi to victory.

During the 2014/15 race, the team also won the in-port race series and set a 24-hour distance record of 550.82 nautical miles while approaching Cape Horn.

Closer to home, Walker holds the record for the fastest circumnavigation of the Isle of Wight.

He took two hours and 21 minutes back in August 2011, a time since ratified by the World Sailing Speed Record Council.

Walker also holds the record for the fastest Monohull Race - 42 hours and 39 minutes (Volvo Open 70 Abu Dhabi) in August 2011.

'My kids just want earth to stop turning'

IAN Walker, freshly crowned winning skipper of the Volvo Ocean Race, woke up this week with the familiar feeling to all sailors in the nine-month offshore marathon: How on earth do I follow that?

That's a particularly tough challenge for the 45-year-old Hampshire-based ace, who has spent the last eight years of his life focusing on climbing and winning the 'Everest of Sailing'.

First up, this Sunday (June 28) is a trip back to the United Arab Emirates to celebrate Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing's triumph to party with the backers who made it all possible.

Then, unlike many of his rival competitors who are rushing straight into a series of other sailing challenges, he plans some long overdue rest and relaxation at his Warsash home with his family.

"I think my next appointment is rescue boat duty at Junior Fortnight sailing with my kids," he told a post-finish press conference after his fifth place finish in Leg 9 to Gothenburg sealed the 12th edition of the Volvo Ocean Race.

"I'm going home for the summer – my kids want their daddy back."

Walker said it with a smile on his face, but makes a serious point.

Top class sport's longest and toughest professional event demands huge commitments from its participants, at sea and on land, and to win demands an almost obsessive focus.

Walker, a twice-Olympic silver medallist, is well known within sailing for eschewing sleep in his drive for victory while onboard.

His journey to become the 11th man to win the 41-year-old pinnacle of offshore racing, formerly the Whitbread Round the World Race, has been long and hard.

A lesser man would have been excused for quitting long before this week's moment of glory.

Dream

He was asked, almost out of the blue, to skipper a joint Chinese/Irish venture, Green Dragon, in the 2008-09 race.

But the boat under-performed from the off and Walker and his crew were never a threat to Torsten Grael's eventual champions, Ericsson 4.

Walker looked likely to fare better in 2011-12 onboard Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing's Volvo Open 70, Azzam.

She too, though, proved to be an under-performer and a broken mast on the very fast night of the race set the scene for a campaign littered with disappointments, lifted only by the odd bright moment.

Walker refused to give up on his dream.

He arrived in Alicante pre-race in October 2014, relaxed and confident, after the perfect build-up in a one-design Volvo Ocean 65, which he could be sure was the equal of any of his rival's.

He also assembled an eight-strong crew of tried and tested professionals such as navigator Simon Fisher – from Southampton – Ireland's



Ian Walker waves to the crowds after lifting the Volvo Ocean Race silverware.



Walker looking out for potential hazards in the treacherous Southern Ocean

Justin Slattery, Kiwi Daryl Wislang and Aussie Phil Harmer.

"Our game plan is simple," he told reporters on the eve of the opening skirmishes in Alicante. "If we can be on the podium for every leg, we will not be far away from winning this thing."

It was a strategy that worked to perfection.

The new Azzam had accrued two victories – achieved in the testing Leg 1 from Alicante to Cape Town and then the epic Leg 5 through the Southern Ocean – by the time they had finished the sixth stage.

Just as importantly, they were solidly on the podium in all the others, with three of them in runner-up spot.

Until Leg 5, though, Dongfeng Race Team – skippered by Frenchman Charles Caudrelier – looked capable of scuppering Walker's well-laid plans, especially after winning their 'home' stage into Sanya on Leg 3.

But a broken mast forced the Chinese team out of Leg 5 and with it eight, costly, points were added to

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Wimbledon 2015

EIGHT-PAGE GUIDE TO THE BIGGEST SHOW IN WORLD TENNIS

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ANDY STEPPING UP THE PACE
IN RACE FOR SECOND CROWN

MURRAY INA HURRY!



WORLD STARS ARE
ALL SET FOR SW19

INSIDE ■ PREVIEWS ■ FULL SINGLES DRAW ■ BORIS BECKER ■ BETTING GUIDE

Men's singles

Singles draw:
pages 4 & 5



A king - on and off court

But Djokovic must bounce back from shock French Open final defeat to Wawrinka

NOVAK DJOKOVIC left Roland Garros with all the dignity and statesmanship of a ruling monarch – but still arrives at Wimbledon feeling his crown sits askew.

The reigning SW19 champion dispatched clay king Rafael Nadal, swatted aside the resurgent Andy Murray, and was set to complete his ascent to a career grand slam in Paris, when up popped humble page boy Stan Wawrinka.

The unassuming Swiss – bar those court jester pyjama shorts, of course – pulled off the masterstroke few thought possible, edging out Djokovic at the height of his powers.

Djokovic has long since boasted the strength of character to master his emotions and project grace in defeat, but the Serb scaled new levels of composure in congratulating Wawrinka.

"In life some things are more important than victories on the tennis court, like character and respect, and you deserve your win because of the respect everyone has for you," said a doubtless-dejected Djokovic.

It was his late first coach and "second mother", Jelena Gencic, who taught Djokovic that life does not begin and end at the tramlines, but after again being denied his desire to honour her by completing a career grand slam, the likeable Serb drew on those lessons from yesteryear.

The grand slam show rolls into west London in rude health and boasting plenty of

by Nick Purewal

intrigue then, and Djokovic must quickly cast off any Parisian shadow to mount a staunch defence of his title.

Djokovic may have dumped out nine-time French Open champion Nadal in his own personal fiefdom in Paris, but the Mallorcan has since moved on to claim his first title on grass since 2010.

Nadal (below) triumphed at the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart, the German tournament switching from clay to grass to capitalise on the extra week in the calendar between the French Open and Wimbledon.

The 29-year-old seems destined to be blighted by injury concerns and doubts for the rest of his career, and his fourth-round exit at the hands of raw Aussie teenager Nick Kyrgios last year was another indicator of Nadal's potential for fragility.

The muscle-man from Manacor has yet to reach a Wimbledon quarter-final since finishing as runner-up in 2011, but declared himself ready to embrace his "second-favourite surface" during Queen's.

Nadal insisted "I don't know and I don't care

much now", when quizzed on his chances of adding to his haul of 14 major titles this summer. Instead, he just revelled in being fit after years of knee trouble.

"The first three and a half months of the season were terrible for me, very bad," said Nadal. "But I feel I am playing better now, my knees are fine, and if my knees are fine I have chances to compete well."

"My main goal is to finish the season healthy."

"I was not surprised that I lost at Roland Garros because I didn't do the right things before the tournament."

And then there is Roger Federer. There is always Roger Federer. Just ask Djokovic, who had to squeeze out every last drop of perspiration and inspiration to beat the Swiss master in last year's final.

Whatever protestations Federer may make to the contrary, the evergreen showman is still intent on moving past the record of seven Wimbledon titles he shares with Pete Sampras.

Last year every round was met with a caveat, that the 17-time grand slam champion could not possibly summon one more Wimbledon crown.

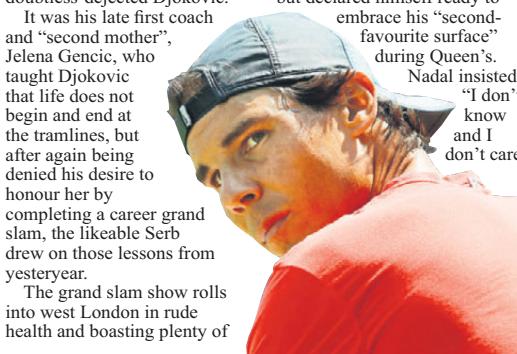
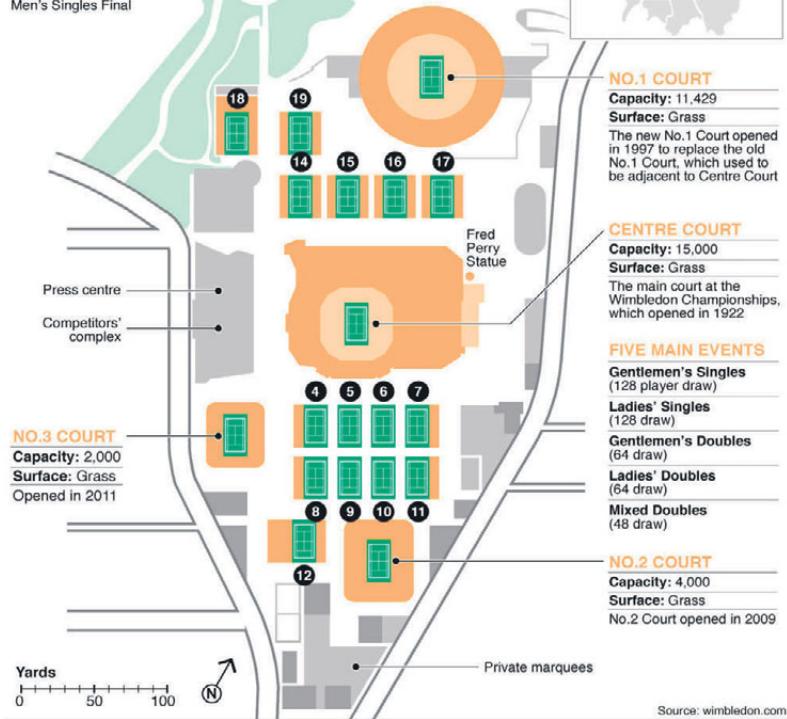
Even in the final itself there were moments when he almost pulled off that coup.

As Nadal pointed out in reference to Wawrinka's French Open triumph, which many regarded as unthinkable given Djokovic's dominance, "That's tennis, no?"

Wimbledon 2015



KEY EVENT DATES
Monday June 29: Wimbledon 2015 starts
Saturday July 11: Ladies' Singles Final
Sunday July 12: Men's Singles Final



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Preview

Grass gives Andy best chance to topple Djokovic

by Frank Malley

ANDY MURRAY has been known occasionally to wander past the Virginia creeper and into Wimbledon's Centre Court to embrace the ambience when only the odd pigeon is disturbing the grandeur.

Who could blame him for that after becoming, in 2013, the first British man to win the Wimbledon singles title in 77 years?

Murray understandably delights in the memories, but this year as he recalls the warm glow of those triumphant moments against Novak Djokovic, he could also take inspiration from history and potentially make some more.

The fact is that July 7, 2013, was the last time Murray beat Djokovic. They have played each other eight times since Murray charmed a nation by recording that clinical 6-4 7-5 6-4 victory over the current world No.1 and each time Djokovic has prevailed, including their five-set semi-final thriller at the recent French Open. Those are not statistics which will necessarily engender optimism in the crowds flocking to SW19 in search of another British victory.

Crucially, however, none of those defeats have been on grass, a surface on which Murray is unbeaten against the Serb, having also defeated him at Wimbledon in the 2012 Olympics semi-final.

In fact, Djokovic has never taken a set off Murray on grass, a statistic which will hearten Murray's resolve if this year's tournament hinges on what is becoming one of the fiercest rivalries in sport.

There is also evidence Murray is arriving in the right place at the right time a year after losing 1-6 6-7 2-6 to Grigor Dimitrov in the Wimbledon quarter-finals following months of recuperation from back surgery.

He has kicked on from there, proved by his recent 15-match winning run on clay



Andy Murray makes history with his 2013 Wimbledon victory

which yielded two titles after his marriage to long-term girlfriend Kim Sears. He also reached the Australian Open final in February and the Roland Garros semi-final.

Wimbledon sees Murray on home turf, his home only a short distance from the courts. It gives him the opportunity to play with his dogs, mix with his friends and family, sleep in his own bed, something which he says has happened no more than seven or eight times this year before the grass-court season.

Murray is a man of simple tastes. He is not one for over-confidence. His predictions tend to be restrained and mostly he has

contented himself with sound bites such as "My game is back close to where it needs to be" and "Physically I'm back there again" and "I don't think I'm too far away".

The underlying tone, however, is that he is ready to carve another notch on history, even with the men's game currently as open as it has been for years.

No longer does Rafael Nadal, suffering the effects of injury, dominate as once he did. Roger Federer at almost 34, meanwhile, is slipping slowly, if gracefully, over the hill while dangerous floaters, both established and emerging, populate the draw.

Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a semi-finalist at Roland Garros, is a threat to the big guns, as is French Open champion Stan Wawrinka, the Swiss player so long in the shadow of Federer but whose tenacity and firepower is finally bearing deserved fruit at the age of 30.

Throw into the mix young guns such as Milos Raonic, Dominic Thiem and Nick Kyrgios, and the future of tennis is bright.

Not that anyone should look further than a seasoned veteran in the shape of Serena Williams to lift the women's crown.

True, Maria Sharapova is always an elegant if raucously grunting force in SW19, and Serbia's French Open semi-finalist Ana Ivanovic is in fine form, while a myriad of east European players, headed by reigning champion Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, could go deep into the tournament. But Williams is on a mission.

After winning her 20th singles title at the French Open, she is on a crusade to catch Germany's Steffi Graf, who lifted 22 grand slam singles titles and perhaps even Australian Margaret Court, the all-time leading woman player with 24.

Not that long ago, it looked as if fashion interests and lifestyle distractions might have deflected Serena's march on immortality, but the way she battled against illness to beat Lucie Safarova in the final at Roland Garros spoke of a champion who, at 33, has regained her mojo.

At Wimbledon she also has the chance to hold all four grand slam titles simultaneously, having already claimed consecutive US Open, Australian Open and French Open crowns.

No woman serves as hard as Serena. No woman has such consistent power in her groundstrokes. No woman possesses more tenacity. No woman at this Wimbledon has more incentive to prove yet again she is the most successful half of the greatest sister act ever in sport.

There are so many reasons the smart money is on Serena to claim her sixth Wimbledon singles title. History is there for the taking. The hope for British fans is that if Djokovic can be overcome once more on grass, the same might be said for Murray.



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Men's singles draw

1st round	2nd round	3rd round	4th round	Quarter-finals	Semi-finals	Men's final
N.Djokovic (SRB) [1]	v P.Kohlschreiber (GER)					
J.Niemenen (FIN)	v L.Hewitt (AUS)					
P.Herbert (FRA)	v H.Chung (KOR)					
J.Struff (GER)	v B.Tomic (AUS) [27]					
L.Mayer (ARG) [24]	v T.Kokkinakis (AUS)					
J.Tipsarevic (SRB)	v M.Granollers (ESP)					
M.Ilhan (TUR)	v J.Janowicz (POL)					
L.Pouille (FRA)	v K.Anderson (RSA) [14]					
M.Cilic (CRO) [9]	v H.Moriya (JPN)					
A.Haider-Maurer (AUT)	v R.Berankis (LTU)					
M.Ebdon (AUS)	v B.Rola (SLO)					
G.Soeda (JPN)	v J.Isner (USA) [17]					
P.Cuevas (URU) [28]	v D.Kudla (USA)					
T.Gabashvili (RUS)	v A.Zverev (GER)					
J.Souza (BRA)	v S.Giraldo (COL)					
S.Bolelli (ITA)	v K.Nishikori (JPN) [5]					
S.Wawrinka (SUI) [4]	v J.Sousa (POR)					
V.Estreilla Burgos (DOM)	v B.Becker (GER)					
M.Klizan (SVK)	v F.Verdasco (ESP)					
D.Sela (ISR)	v D.Thiem (AUT) [32]					
T.Robredo (ESP) [19]	v J.Millman (AUS)					
D.Young (USA)	v M.Baghdatis (CYP)					
L.BROADY (GBR)	v M.Matosevic (AUS)					
H.Zeballos (ARG)	v D.Goffin (BEL) [16]					
G.Dimitrov (BUL) [11]	v F.Delbonis (ARG)					
L.Lacko (SVK)	v S.Johnson (USA)					
K.De Schepper (FRA)	v J-P.Smith (AUS)					
L.Saville (AUS)	v R.Gasquet (FRA) [21]					
N.Kyrgios (AUS) [26]	v D.Schwartzman (ARG)					
J.Monaco (ARG)	v F.Mayer (GER)					
D.Lajovic (SRB)	v T.Haas (GER)					
D.Gimeno-Traver (ESP)	v M.Raonic (CAN) [7]					
D.Ferrer (ESP) [8]	v J.WARD (GBR)					
J.Vesely (CZE)	v P.Lorenzi (ITA)					
V.Pospisil (CAN)	v V.Millot (FRA)					
T.Smyczek (USA)	v F.Fognini (ITA) [30]					
V.Troicki (SRB) [22]	v A.Nedovyesov (KAZ)					
R.Stepanek (CZE)	v A.BEDENE (GBR)					
D.Brown (GER)	v Y-H.Lu (TPE)					
T.Bellucci (BRA)	v R.Nadal (ESP) [10]					
J-W.Tsonga (FRA) [13]	v G.Muller (LUX)					
D.Istomin (UZB)	v A.Ramos-Vinolas (ESP)					
A.Dolgopolov (UKR)	v K.EDMUND (GBR)					
E.Ymer (SWE)	v I.Karlovic (CRO) [23]					
A.Seppi (ITA) [25]	v B.KLEIN (GBR)					
S.Stakhovsky (UKR)	v B.Coric (CRO)					
R.Haase (NED)	v A.Falla (COL)					
M.Kukushkin (KAZ)	v A.MURRAY (GBR) [3]					
T.Berdych (CZE) [6]	v J.Chardy (FRA)					
F.Krajnovic (SRB)	v N.Mahut (FRA)					
E.Gulbis (LAT)	v L.Rosol (CZE)					
P.Andujar (ESP)	v G.Garcia-Lopez (ESP) [29]					
G.Monfils (FRA) [18]	v P.Carreno Busta (ESP)					
A.Mannarino (FRA)	v M.Berrer (GER)					
Y.Sugita (JPN)	v B.Kavcic (SLO)					
N.Almagro (ESP)	v G.Simon (FRA) [12]					
F.Lopez (ESP) [15]	v S.Darcis (BEL)					
N.Basilashvili (GEO)	v F.Bagnis (ARG)					
B.Paire (FRA)	v M.Youzhny (RUS)					
R.Bemelmans (BEL)	v R.Bautista Agut (ESP) [20]					
J.Sock (USA) [31]	v S.Groth (AUS)					
M.Jaziri (TUN)	v J.Duckworth (AUS)					
S.Querrey (USA)	v I.Sijssling (NED)					
D.Dzumhur (BIH)	v R.Federer (SUI) [2]					



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Women's singles draw

Women's final

Semi-finals

Quarter-finals

4th round

3rd round

2nd round

1st round



Wimbledon 2015

women's champion

S.Williams (USA) [1]	v	M.Gasparyan (RUS)
T.Babos (HUN)	v	P.Cetkovska (CZE)
D.Hantuchova (SVK)	v	D.Cibulkova (SVK)
H.WATSON (GBR)	v	C.Garcia (FRA) [32]
S.Errani (ITA) [19]	v	F.Schiavone (ITA)
A.Krunic (SRB)	v	R.Vinci (ITA)
M.Erakovic (NZL)	v	Y.Putintseva (KAZ)
M.Brengle (USA)	v	V.Williams (USA) [16]
C.Suarez Navarro (ESP) [9]	v	J.Ostapenko (LAT)
A.Dulgheru (ROU)	v	K.Mladenovic (FRA)
K.Flipkens (BEL)	v	A.Beck (GER)
A.Kontaveit (EST)	v	V.Azarenka (BLR) [23]
B.Bencic (SUI) [30]	v	T.Pironkova (BUL)
V.Diatchenko (RUS)	v	A.Friedsam (GER)
A.Van Uytvanck (BEL)	v	B.Mattei-Sands (USA)
Y.Xu (CHN)	v	A.Ivanovic (SRB) [7]
M.Sharapova (RUS) [4]	v	J.KONTA (GBR)
R.Hogenkamp (NED)	v	Q.Wang (CHN)
N.Gibbs (USA)	v	L.Tsurenko (UKR)
D.Gavrilova (RUS)	v	I.Begu (ROU) [29]
F.Pennetta (ITA) [24]	v	Z.Diyas (KAZ)
L.Zhu (CHN)	v	A.Sasnovic (BLR)
M.Duque-Marino (COL)	v	N.BROADY (GBR)
S.Rogers (USA)	v	A.Petkovic (GER) [14]
Ka.Pliskova (CZE) [11]	v	I.Falconi (USA)
C.Vandeweghe (USA)	v	A.Schmiedlova (SVK)
E.Galloitis-Hall (USA)	v	U.Radwarska (POL)
D.Kovinic (MNE)	v	S.Stosur (AUS) [22]
B.Strycova (CZE) [27]	v	S.Stephens (USA)
P.Hercog (SLO)	v	L.Davis (USA)
S-W.Hsieh (TPE)	v	K.Kanepi (EST)
A.Riske (USA)	v	L.Safarova (CZE) [6]
C.Wozniacki (DEN) [5]	v	S.Zheng (CHN)
K.Siniakova (CZE)	v	D.Allertova (CZE)
L.Arruabarrena (ESP)	v	P.Parmentier (FRA)
T.Pereira (BRA)	v	C.Giorgi (ITA) [31]
G.Muguruza (ESP) [20]	v	V.Lepchenko (USA)
M.Lucic-Baroni (CRO)	v	Y.Shvedova (KAZ)
A.Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)	v	M.Barthel (GER)
C.Witthoeft (GER)	v	A.Kerber (GER) [10]
T.Bacsinszky (SUI) [15]	v	J.Goerges (GER)
S.Karatancheva (BUL)	v	S.Soler-Espinosa (ESP)
J.Larsson (SWE)	v	C.McHale (USA)
J.Gajdosova (AUS)	v	S.Lisicki (GER) [18]
S.Kuznetsova (RUS) [26]	v	L.Siegemund (GER)
Kr.Pliskova (CZE)	v	T.Smitkova (CZE)
M.Puig (PUR)	v	M.Niculescu (ROU)
J.Cepelova (SVK)	v	S.Halep (ROU) [3]
E.Makarova (RUS) [8]	v	S.Vickery (USA)
K.Knapp (ITA)	v	M.Rybarikova (SVK)
A.Mitu (ROU)	v	O.Govortsova (BLR)
A.Konjuh (CRO)	v	A.Cornet (FRA) [25]
M.Keys (USA) [21]	v	S.Voegle (SUI)
Y.Wickmayer (BEL)	v	E.Kulichkova (RUS)
T.Maria (GER)	v	B.Jovanovski (SRB)
Y.Duan (CHN)	v	E.Bouchard (CAN) [12]
A.Radwanska (POL) [13]	v	L.Hradecka (CZE)
A.Tomljanovic (CRO)	v	K.Koukalova (CZE)
T.Paszek (AUT)	v	C.Dellacqua (AUS)
M.Doi (JPN)	v	E.Svitolina (UKR) [17]
J.Jankovic (SRB) [28]	v	E.Vesnina (RUS)
E.Rodina (RUS)	v	L.ROBSON (GBR)
M.Linette (POL)	v	K.Nara (JPN)
K.Bertens (NED)	v	P.Kvitova (CZE) [2]



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Women's singles



British hope Heather Watson

By Tom Allnutt

BRITISH No.1 Heather Watson can crack the world's top 20 if she continues her current rate of improvement, according to her doubles partner and Wimbledon semi-finalist Simona Halep.

Watson, currently 47th in the WTA rankings, arrives at the All England Club after a mixed first half of the year which has included some impressive wins, with a victory over then world No.8 Agnieszka Radwanska the pick of the bunch, but also a number of disappointing defeats.

Her preparations for Wimbledon appear to have been hampered by a troublesome right elbow, but the 23-year-old insisted the injury played little part in her first-round loss to 87-ranked Aleksandra Krunic in Birmingham.

The setback, however, left Watson relying on her doubles for further practice on grass, where she teamed up with Halep, who reached the Wimbledon last four 12 months ago and was full of praise for her partner.

"I played against Heather once in the US Open, two years ago I think, and it was a tough match – about three hours," Halep said.

"She fights until the end and is hitting the ball well, but not too strongly because she is my height. She

is moving pretty well and is improving a lot when you play her – she is a good player and she can be in the top 20 easily if she keeps going the way she is."

Halep's approval seems particularly relevant to Watson, given the parallels between the pair. The Romanian is a year older than Watson but is of similarly slight physique, and two years ago she headed into Wimbledon ranked 32nd in the world, without having gone further than the third round of a grand slam event.

More aggression, combined with her already consistent all-round game, has seen Halep climb to third in the rankings and reach three quarter-finals, a semi-final and a final in the last six major tournaments. "She's the sort of player Heather needs to be modelling

herself on," said former British No.1 Annabel Croft.

"She can look at somebody like Halep, who is a similar build to her and a similar ball-striker, and see how much she has risen up the rankings and how much she has achieved.

"Halep has got herself unbelievably fit, more aggressive and more confident – I'd say that's definitely the way Heather needs to go to make the next step up."

Watson is likely to be Britain's principal flag-bearer in the women's singles given Laura Robson's 17-month lay-off with a wrist injury.

It was only two years ago that Robson made the fourth round in SW19 as a teenager, but even she must be unsure what she will produce after such a lengthy spell on the sidelines.

"You could look at it two ways," Croft said. "It's either a nightmare to come back at Wimbledon because there's so much pressure playing in England or, with her left-handed serve and playing on grass, she has a real chance of causing some damage here."

"She's an unbelievable talent and such a natural ball-striker."

"If she comes back on the grass, she's tough to play for anybody – players certainly won't want to face her – but she mustn't get too down on herself if the results don't come immediately. It's going to take time and patience."

Johanna Konta and Naomi Broady, currently Britain's No.2 and No.3 respectively, have both been given wildcards already and will also take their place in the main draw.

Serena is just grand

Williams has calendar slam in her sights

By John Skilbeck

SERENA WILLIAMS has more sidelines than a supersized tennis club – and she can now add crisis management to her skill-set.

When the American made a traumatic exit from Wimbledon 12 months ago, with a stunning singles defeat to Alize Cornet followed by a startling doubles meltdown, her career looked to be at a crossroads.

The third-round loss to Cornet meant Williams had not gone beyond the last 16 in the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon since the start of the year, only the third time this century she had known such a mediocre run.

When, looking dazed, she served four successive double faults in a doubles match days later, Serena and sister Venus quit and bid a hasty retreat.

Serena was ill, a statement said. Those who witnessed the Court One scenes will never forget them, as she struggled to

bounce the ball and keep it under control, seemingly struggling to see straight, never mind serve with any accuracy.

Where was her career heading? Was this a most mortifying end for the Williams dynasty at Wimbledon?

The questions were asked, and the response was emphatic.

Serena has won all three grand slams since, capturing four other titles to boot, including the WTA Finals, and returns to Wimbledon with a first calendar grand slam since Steffi Graf won all four in 1988 now in her sights.

What else is in her now crystal-clear sights? Only Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 slams. Serena is



four short, third on the all-time list behind Court and Graf, who won 22.

The grand slam would provide yet another magical moment for the Williams family chronicles, and would mean Serena winning firstly Wimbledon and then defending her US Open title.

"I think it will be awesome, but at the end of the day it's pretty awesome to have 20. Obviously I would love to win a grand slam," Williams said after landing Roland Garros glory at the start of June.

"I haven't done great at Wimbledon the past two years, so I'm going to take it a day at a time there. My goal is just to do better than the last couple of

years, do one more and one more and one more."

"That's the one I have been struggling at, so hopefully I will be able to play a little better there."

As resurgent Serena has thrived, so Eugenie Bouchard has nose-dived. The smash of 2014 has been the mis-hit of 2015, with the 21-year-old Canadian tumbling out of the world's top 10 after looking destined for the very top.

Her charge to the Wimbledon final last year revealed extraordinary self-belief. She could joke about her mother's fascination with the Royal Family – she and twin sister Beatrice are named after the children of Prince Andrew and

Sarah, Duchess of York – but Bouchard meant business, and losing the final to Petra Kvitova was a heavy blow.

She was expected to push on this year and challenge Serena and Maria Sharapova for the grand slam titles, and top ranking, but Bouchard has gone backwards, and a run of nine defeats in 10 matches before arriving in England told its own sorry story.

Bouchard split from coach Nick Saviano in the winter, with Frenchman Sam Sumyk appointed his successor. In May she was named the world's most marketable athlete.

Selling an athlete who loses in the first round each week cannot be easy, but Bouchard

Serena Williams is treated after being taken ill during a doubles match with sister Venus at Wimbledon last year, when the pair were forced to retire

should eventually be able to write off this slump as a blip.

She has spoken of the need to be "more instinctive" on the "pretty and nice" grass, and said: "When I go to Wimbledon I'll have memories from last year popping into my head, which will hopefully give me confidence that I'll play really well."

Kvitova, with her two Wimbledon wins, must be considered a serious title threat, along with Sharapova.

Lucie Safarova, a Czech compatriot of Kvitova, is another who could make a big impact. An unexpected semi-finalist last year, Safarova reached the French Open final earlier this month.

But it was Serena who triumphed, even while suffering from flu. She cannot stay on tour forever, and right now she is making every grand slam count. Wimbledon, again, is at Serena's mercy.



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Anniversary



Boris Becker on his way to becoming the youngest men's singles winner at a grand slam event, 30 years ago this year

Boris' hunt for new characters

By Tom Allnutt

TRIPLE Wimbledon champion Boris Becker believes tennis is on the brink of sliding into a personality vacuum once Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal decide to hang up their rackets.

Thirty years ago this year, Becker won British hearts by taking his first Wimbledon title at the age of 17 years 227 days to become the youngest male grand slam champion in the history of the sport.

The German, who beat Kevin Curren in the final, captured the imagination with his youthful charisma and characterful style of play, for which he became known as 'Boom Boom Boris' in tribute to his powerful serve and clinical volleys.

Becker is now using his experience to coach world No.1 Novak Djokovic, who is hoping to bounce back from defeat in the French Open final with his own third Wimbledon triumph.

Djokovic has contributed to a golden era at the top of the men's game, fighting it out with Federer and Nadal, as well as Andy Murray in recent years, but consistent challenge outside the top four has been scarce.

Stan Wawrinka, Djokovic's conqueror in Roland Garros, has never been past the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, while the likes of Tomas Berdych, Kei Nishikori, Grigor

Dimitrov and Marin Cilic have so far failed to fulfil potential.

Becker believes the game's popularity could suffer in the next few years unless more forceful characters, on and off the court, begin to emerge.

He said: "I think the men's side is in a very healthy state – we have an increase in popularity from over 10 years ago and the numbers are staggering. But the question has to be asked: what if Roger decides to quit or Rafa is not coming back?

"It's impossible to carry on with only Novak and Andy.

"You have a young group of Australians – Nick Kyrgios, Thanasi Kokkinakis – who have good personalities and are interesting to watch, but there's a gap in between of players you don't know anything about.

"In two or three years' time, we have to be careful."

In his new book, *Boris Becker's Wimbledon: My life and career at the All England Club*, Becker said players these days are "too politically correct" and accused them of being "fake" in

disguising their rivalries and will to win.

Only earlier this month, Murray felt the need to tweet an apology at the French Open after a coach criticised the British No.1's language in his third-round victory over Kyrgios, who himself had to fend off accusations of arrogance from one journalist in the build-up to the contest.

"Nowadays everything is so supervised and so observed and everybody is very judgmental," added Becker. "We live in a day and age where players have to be guarded a lot, in who they are as people."

"There's microphones on the court and social media, so there are a lot of occasions when players have to guard their emotions and that's unfortunate, because you want to see the real person."

"When I was playing, you could be a little bit more emotional on the court and in your private life. It's not just tennis. In most sports the top players have to be very protective of their private life."

"I admire very much the current crop of players, and I

think the big four are exceptional players with exceptional personalities, but there are so many more in tennis who cannot really show their true sides because they are so protective and so careful."

Wimbledon has not seen a male champion from outside the 'big four' in 13 years, since Leyton Hewitt won in 2002.

Djokovic is the defending champion, lifting the title last year just months after his partnership with Becker had begun, but the Serb will come under threat again from his most familiar foes.

"I think there's a very strong rivalry between Djokovic and Federer and between Djokovic and Murray and between Djokovic and Nadal," said Becker. "These are the matches that everyone is looking forward to. Those are the rivalries that make the sport, that everyone is fascinated by."

"For a long time it was Roger and Rafa, even though Rafa won most of the matches, but last year we had a couple of really good matches between Andy and Novak, and I think those are the matches which make the sport special."

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think that in my first year with Novak, after just a couple of months we would be able to win the Wimbledon title. That was the icing on the cake."



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Betting guide:
page 8

Enjoying Wimbledon – whatever the budget

£25

Full-day ground passes for the first week come in at £25, but there is still hope for those wanting to experience Wimbledon on a shoestring.

Grounds admission after 5pm in the opening week costs £18, while in the latter stages drops to £14. Grounds passes allow access to unreserved seating and standing on courts three to 19, and punters can queue on the day, but expect a five to six-hour wait.

Wimbledon Park hosts those hardy enough to camp out overnight in a bid to be the first through the gates when doors open at 10.30am.

A late arrival to cut the cost of a grounds pass can still leave enough change from that £25 budget for one of the best pizzas in town. Franco Manca on Wimbledon Park Road, just down from Southfields underground station, offers authentic sourdough pizza cooked in a wood-burning oven at reasonable prices.

£250

The public ballot still aims to distribute tickets to Centre Court and Courts One, Two and Three in the fairest possible manner. The ballot is long since closed for this year, however, leaving a limited number of show court tickets available at the turnstiles each day.

As these cannot be booked in advance, the majority go to those camping out in Wimbledon Park.

Centre Court tickets for the final four days are not sold at the turnstiles, but tickets can still be snapped up through the queue for the men's quarter-finals.

A limited number of Centre Court tickets for Wednesday, July 8, slated to stage the men's quarters and the women's doubles semi-finals, can be bought at the turnstiles for £119 apiece.

If the combination of a night's camping, queuing at sunrise and a day's breathless tennis action is not enough to satiate your appetite, head to The White Onion on the High Street in Wimbledon Village for high-quality but fuss-free contemporary French cuisine. Formerly The Lawn Bistro, the perfectly-placed restaurant has had a summer makeover just in time for the Championships.

£2,500

The options to embrace Wimbledon in style are vast, with hospitality packages aplenty for the well-off.

Keith Prowse's Players' Table hospitality package starts at £760, while a Centre Court debenture for the men's singles final, along with hospitality, is £4,715.

The hospitality package includes complimentary bar, a four-course meal designed by top chef Albert Roux and a traditional afternoon tea, for starters. Throw in a garden area to relax, a luxury chauffeur car service for journeys within the M25, and a tennis celebrity to meet and greet guests, and that's where the money goes.

If there's any inclination, funds and appetite after all that, the ever-popular Thai Tho on Wimbledon Village High Street will round things off nicely.

£25,000

For the true high-rollers, Sportsworld can offer a four-day stay at Westminster's five-star Corinthia Hotel and tickets for the men's singles semi-finals and the men's singles final.

Two days of VIP hospitality await, with underground travel from central London to Southfields and shuttle buses to and from the All England Club thrown in. For the princely sum of £9,995 per person, this is the way to take in the latter stages in lavish style.

For the chance to keep mingling with the stars, head to San Lorenzo Fuorigioco in Wimbledon Village, where almost every top name in tennis has eaten over the years. Main courses range from around £20 to £40, but this is one eatery where the history and backdrop have far greater pull than any desire to do serious damage to a credit card.

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Betting guide

Andy 3-1 to fight off Novak

by Luke Thornhill

ANDY MURRAY and Novak Djokovic have points to prove.

Djokovic, the reigning champion, was widely-tipped to complete a career grand slam at the French Open, but was stunned by Stanislas Wawrinka in the final.

Murray is looking to bounce back from last year's straight-sets quarter-final loss to Grigor Dimitrov. He was also beaten by Djokovic at the last-four stage in Paris, though by pushing the world No.1 to a fifth set he went further than many had expected.

Djokovic is again favourite, at 6-5, with the 3-1 on Murray good value. It is worth large stakes if he is on the opposite side of the draw to the Serb. Rafael Nadal is a two-time

Stan James odds

MEN	
Novak Djokovic	6-5
Andy Murray	3-1
Roger Federer	6-1
Rafael Nadal	12-1
WOMEN	
Serena Williams	7-4
Petra Kvitova	10-3
Maria Sharapova	8-1
Victoria Azarenka	10-1

winner here, but can be dismissed having failed to get past the fourth round in any of the past three years, while Roger Federer surely cannot overcome Djokovic or Murray.

As for each-way outsiders, French Open champion Wawrinka is a generous 14-1, Kei Nishikori (33-1) will go far



Stan Wawrinka is generous each-way odds

if his body holds up, while Marin Cilic reached the quarters last year (before winning the US Open) so can be a contender at 44-1.

The women's competition boils down to which Serena Williams turns up – the one who can smash anyone off the park, or the one who sulks and loses to a rank outsider. Last year it was the latter, as she went out in the third round, but she arrives having brushed off illness to win the French Open. She is 7-4 and impossible to

back against, so again the value is to be found in each-way bets.

In Paris only two of the top 10 seeds made it to the semis, and there are some really long odds available for players who have proven ability, but are assumed to be out of form.

Julia Goerges stands out at 250-1 – the German had a 2014 to forget, but reached the fourth round in Melbourne and Paris.

Sara Errani is also worth considering at 200-1, bearing in mind she reached the quarters in Paris, losing to Williams.

WIMBLEDON IN NUMBERS

ON COURT

- 15,000 the number of bananas the players get through each year
- 250 ball boys and ball girls trained and ready for action
- 54,250 balls used each tournament
- 28% correct challenges to Hawk-Eye by men's singles players in 2014
- 25.7% correct challenges to Hawk-Eye by women's singles players in 2014
- 8mm length the grass is cut to on courts



- 60,000 ice cream servings
- 32,000 fish and chips
- 6,000 pizzas

STRAWBERRIES

- 142,000 portions of English strawberries sold during the tournament
- £1.70 price of a punnet in 1993
- £2.50 price of a punnet in 2015
- 7,000 litres of cream poured over the fruit during the fortnight

- 10 minimum number of berries per punnet

TOP TIPPLES

- 350,000 cups of tea and coffee
- 230,000 glasses of Pimm's
- 150,000 bottles of water
- 100,000 pints of draught beer and lager
- 28,000 bottles of champagne

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their daddy back'



Top – former Portugal football international Nuno Gomes takes a selfie with Ian Walker and the rest of the Abu Dhabi crew during the Lisbon stopover.

Above – Walker pictured with Portuguese footballing legend Luis Figo in Lisbon.

Left – Walker at work, battling the elements in the hostile environment of the Southern Ocean.

their total.

Suddenly, the race was Walker's to lose.

To their credit, Walker and his vastly experienced crew never looked likely to drop their golden opportunity, despite fifth places in Legs 7 and 9.

"It's an amazing feeling, so much hard work goes into it," he recalled

this week.

"My whole relationship with the Whitbread started as a kid with pictures of the boats on the wall.

Mistakes

"I did my first Volvo Ocean Race two editions ago and I really wasn't sure if I'd be up to it.

"I wondered what the Southern Ocean would be like, lots of self-doubt, and it's been a long, old road.

"We've made a lot of mistakes and we've learned a lot of lessons and this time round we threw all that experience in place, surrounded myself with good guys and it worked."

His hope now is that the achieve-

ment will further popularise a sport that is continuing to gain traction in Abu Dhabi and elsewhere in the Gulf region.

"It's a big deal. A big part of what we're trying to do is try to popularise the sport there and get young Emiratis sailing."

"The best way we could do that was to win the race."

Volvo Ocean 2014/15

Leg 1: Alicante (Spain) to Cape Town (South Africa)

Winner: Abu Dhabi (Ian Walker/GBR)
Highlights: It was a tactical and long race, passing Gibraltar, Cape Verde, and negotiating the Doldrums and the St Helena High. After breaking a rudder, Dongfeng Race Team went south and nearly caught up with the leaders, finishing in second place only 12 minutes after winners Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing. The all-female crew, Team SCA, snatched sixth place from MAPFRE in the final miles.

Leg 2: Cape Town (South Africa) to Abu Dhabi (UAE)

Winner: Team Brunel (Bouwe Bekking)
Highlights: The leg, which changed Team Vestas Wind's race story, started in 40 knots of breeze at Cape Town. The Agulhas Current and the Indian Ocean, plus a threatened cyclone, heralded a challenging stage for the fleet. Dongfeng Race Team suffered a broken mast track – a recurrent problem for them early in this edition – but they solved it with an on-the-move repair. Then, on November 29, disaster struck. Team Vestas Wind hit a reef on the Cargados Carajos in the Indian Ocean. Chris Nicholson led his team to safety in the middle of the night, in shark-infested waters. The other six boats continued to sail to Abu Dhabi where Team Brunel claimed another tight victory.

Leg 3: Abu Dhabi (UAE) to Sanya (China)

Winner: Dongfeng (Charles Caudrelier)
Highlights: A first victory in the Volvo Ocean Race for a Chinese team. And what better place to do it than in Dongfeng's home port of Sanya? But to achieve their landmark win, Charles Caudrelier and his team were made to battle for 23 and a half days.

Leg 4: Sanya (China) to Auckland (New Zealand)

Winner: MAPFRE (Xabi Fernández)

Leg 5: Auckland (New Zealand) to Itajaí (Brazil)
Winner: Abu Dhabi (Ian Walker)
Highlights: Cyclone Pam forced the race organisers to delay the leg start. The boats left Auckland three days late on Wednesday, March 18. Three teams endured Chinese gybes and most suffered some sort of equipment failure in the Southern Ocean. The conditions finally improved and Team Alvimedica led the fleet around Cape Horn. Dongfeng Race Team's hopes were rocked when their mast broke close to the Horn. They abandoned the leg, after a brief stop in Ushuaia, Argentina, and made their way to Itajaí under jury rig and motor. The first four boats were within five nautical miles (nm) of each other at the finish, but the Emirati team had made some small gains during the night and defeated MAPFRE for first place.

Leg 6: Itajaí (Brazil) to Newport (USA)

Winner: Dongfeng (Charles Caudrelier)
Highlights: After the extreme Leg 5, the next stage eased up with supreme sailing conditions – and lots of seaweed. Dongfeng had suffered bad luck when they dismasted in Leg 5, and it appeared that the curse had still not lifted, as their electronic water-maker stopped working within a couple of days of starting the stage. Fortunately, they managed to repair it.

Leg 7: Newport (USA) to Lisbon (Portugal)

Winner: Team Brunel (Bouwe Bekking)
Highlights: The leg had poignant memories for Bekking, whose boat Movistar sank on the same stage in the 2005-06 race. However, he proved how successfully he has put that incident behind him with a 21-minute win.

Leg 8: Lisbon (Portugal) to Lorient (France)

Winner: Team SCA (Sam Davies)
Highlights: The return of Team Vestas Wind, following their grounding on a reef in Leg 2 and the breakthrough leg victory of Team SCA, were two of the most memorable moments in the race, never mind on a leg which was finished in under four days in the teeth of a gale. Team Vestas Wind made a fairytale comeback in second.

Leg 9: Lorient (France) - The Hague (The Netherlands) - Gothenburg (Sweden)

Winner: Team Alvimedica (Charlie Enright)
Highlights: The last leg featured three ports – Lorient, a pit-stop in The Hague, and the finale in Gothenburg. Team Alvimedica received their reward for their leg-on-leg improvement, grabbing an early advantage in the English Channel and building it gradually to lead the fleet into The Hague. Behind Charlie Enright's young crew, fifth-place Abu Dhabi celebrated overall victory.

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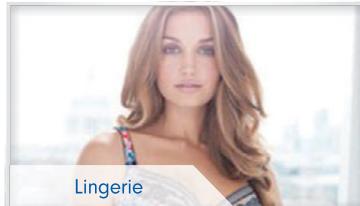
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2 Richard Waldron	Soton AC	34.37
3 George King	Winchester	34.46
4 Daniel Hunt		35.21
5 Carmen Sanchez Toribio	Winchester	36.29
6 David Howard (M40)	Victory AC	36.55
7 Nick Wood (M40)	Wimbledon	36.59
8 Daniel Allaway (M40)	Haslemere AC	37.48
9 Kathy Bailey	Winchester	38.15
10 Mike Anderson (M50)	Farnham	38.47
11 James Moore		39.25
12 James Vann	Alton	39.35
13 Toby Leyland (M40)	British Tri	39.54
14 Ronie Whybro		40.00
15 Matt Grote (M40)	Red Swan	40.14
16 Warren Bentley	Lordshill RR	40.24
17 Darren Foy (M40)	Lordshill RR	40.28
18 Will Campbell-Barnard (M40)	Hart RR	40.39
19 Nick Ambler (M40)		40.41
20 Clare McErlean	Lordshill RR	40.59
21 Amy de Vries	Salisbury Tri	41.06
22 Peter Mullins		41.09
23 Tim Skelton-Smith	Hedge End RC	41.25
24 Howard Long (M50)	Soton AC	41.40
25 Justin Martindale		41.46
26 mark wilkie (M40)	Liss	41.57
27 Shaun Bucknole		42.03
28Tobi Gowers	Salisbury Tri	42.13
29 Colin Mc Donnell (M40)		42.24
30 Jilly Raw		42.24
31 Nicholas Dransfield		42.27
32 Adam Corbin		42.34
33 Stuart Haig	Farnham	42.40
34 Luke Rose (M50)		42.49
35 John McElroy (M50)	Chineham RC	43.01
36 Mark Harris		43.06
37 Ben Whettingsteel	Eastleigh	43.25
38 Jack Penn		43.26
39 Fiona Lynskey	New Forest	43.28
40 Tim Crumpton (m60)	Stubbington	43.29
41 Neil Read		43.31
42 Michael Lefort (M40)		43.31
43 Mark Adams (M40)	Romsey RR	43.31
44 Ryan Walefield (Overton)		44.01
45 Michael Pierwola		44.03
46 Sonia Whatley (F40)		44.04
47 Christine Sadler (Chineham)		44.07
48 Craig Wakefield		44.10
49 Andrew Little (M40)		44.17
50 Nicholas McCreath (M40)		44.24
51 Rohinton Collins (M40)		44.26
52 Simon Pettinatti (M40)		44.26
53 Steve Cluett (M40) Winchester		44.39
54 Myles Bray (M40)		44.44
55 Paul Oxley		44.49
56 Lisa Gottwald	Chineham	44.54
57 Anthony Johns (M50)	Portsmouth Tri	44.55
58 Philip Scrase (M50)	Alton Runners	45.03
59 Howard Dove (M60)	New Forest	45.07
60 James McCafferey		45.08
61 Melissa Parker	Winchester	45.10
62 Gavin McLean (M40)		45.14
63 Oliver Cox		45.20
64 Paul Warthaby (M40)		45.20
65 Ian Jones (M40)	Portsmouth Jog	45.21
66 Paul Gilbertson		45.23
67 Stu Lavallette (M40)		45.24
68 Jim Armitage M50	Alton Runners	45.30
69 Steve Carroll M40		45.33
70 Graeme Seal M40		45.41
71 Iona Strachan F40	Hatch Warren	45.44
72 Peter Terry M40		45.46
73 Joanna Curtis (F50)	Winchester	45.54
74 Jonathan Killick M40		45.58
75 Leon Jones		46.00
76 Lee Cubbage		46.03
77 Stuart Jackson		46.04
78 Lynda Hembury F50	Tring	46.11
79 James Long		46.14
80 Barry Dewey M40	Winchester	46.16
81 Matt Jeffrey		46.19
82 Simon Eggwerton M40		46.21
83 Robert Peter M40		46.25
84 Stephen Hall M40		46.32
85 Rob LUCAS M40		46.32
86 Ollie Ledsham		46.40
87 George Long	Coughborough	46.45
88 Nigel Crook M50		46.56
89 JJ Heath-Caldwell M50	Winchester	47.01
90 mike pearce MVet	Alton	47.01
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105 Harriet Morley F40	Liss	48.21
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113 Robert Britton M40		49.01
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117 Alan White M50		49.27
118 Peter Swithinbank M60	Newbury AC	49.29
119 Hannah Coxhead		49.29
120 Roy Naismith M50		49.37
121 Angel brown F50		49.42
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124 Gareth King	M40	50.10
125 Rachel Connor	Lock Walsh	50.18
126 Will Locke		50.25
127 Richard Smith M40		50.27
128 Tony Hulin M50		50.28
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130 Laura De Lisle		50.35
131 Mark Sherwood	Chineham	50.38

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138 Gary Fitch 50.53

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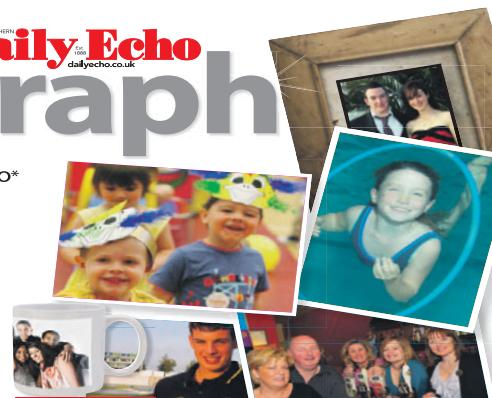
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HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



Michael Bates keeps wicket as Adam Wheater, his replacement at The Ageas Bowl, bats during his run-a-ball 49 (Pics by Mark Sandom)

Bates' Bowl return

IF there was a silver lining to Hampshire's defeat at home to Somerset, it was the sight of Michael Bates keeping wicket in the LV County Championship once again.

Since signing a month-long deal with Somerset, Bates has helped his new county chase down 401 and won on his return to The Ageas Bowl.

"I couldn't have written it any better!" admitted the county's former wicketkeeper. "I was very excited to be returning to the Rose Bowl but it was quite strange to be playing against all my mates."

The applause that greeted Bates as he walked out to bat on Sunday was the loudest of the match.

"The reception was very good and very warming – that was brilliant," he said. "So many people came up to me during the game to pass on their well wishes."

"I was really happy with how it went. I bumped into a lot of people when I was doing the rounds. It was a very good experience made extra special by coming away with a win."

Bates admits he wondered whether he would play in the Championship again after being controversially released by Hampshire at the end of last season.

"It's certainly been a difficult winter; there were times when I was questioning whether cricket was the future for me," he said. "I was well aware it might not work out. I believed in my ability but was beginning to have doubts whether there



ALL SMILES: Michael Bates enjoyed his winning return to The Ageas Bowl.

was an opportunity out there.

"But the last six months have given me a different perspective on everything. It's been a good opportunity to learn about myself and what I might be interested in as a career when I finish playing."

"I did a bit of bar work as a means to an end while all the time keeping

on top of my cricket to be ready if a position came up."

"I rode out the tough times and it's looking like it was worth it."

Bates began the season playing for Home Counties League Oxford and Wiltshire.

He also played two games for Essex 2nds before getting his chance

at Somerset, where he played three Second Eleven Championship matches and seven Second Eleven Trophy games before replacing the out-of-form Alex Barrow earlier this month.

"My agent liaised with Somerset's second team coach when his regular wicketkeeper was injured and I was well aware there be a long-term opportunity," explained Bates.

"Cricket's a funny game and things can turn around quickly, especially as a wicketkeeper. It only takes a broken finger and Craig Kieswetter unfortunately had worse than that."

Former England star Kieswetter confirmed his retirement earlier this month. With Taunton-born Jos Buttler now a Lancashire and England player; Bates must have a good chance of having his contract extended at Taunton.

"We haven't sat down and had that chat; it was agreed to sign for a month and play three Championship games and the final one is against Sussex at Taunton next Sunday," he said.

Should he help Somerset to another win, Bates will be in a very strong position. He hit three attractive fours before being bowled for 14 by Jackson Bird, but was 14 not out when Somerset completed the second-biggest chase in their history.

His five catches at The Ageas Bowl included the last three Hampshire dismissals before Somerset completed the rout. "It seems like an easy game right now!" he said. "The boys are buzzing. We got the most out of the wicket and reaped the rewards."

Wickets for Fidel

FIDEL Edwards took two wickets as the St Lucia Zouks won their first completed game at the Caribbean Premier League.

The former West Indies star, who will return to Hampshire for the last two months of the season, took 2-29 from four overs as his side beat St Kitts and Nevis Patriots by seven wickets with 26 balls to spare.

Edwards dismissed two top-three St Kitts batsmen in his first two overs, either side of the dismissal of New Zealand's Martin Guptill by current Windies international Shannon Gabriel.

Gabriel then accounted for former Hampshire star Shahid Afridi for one.

Ex-Hampshire bowler Sohail Tanvir hit an unbeaten 26 (21 balls) in an unbroken 50 partnership with Marlon Samuels as St Kitts posted 149-6. But despite losing Kevin Pietersen for just 18, St Lucia Zouks won comfortably.

Edwards tweeted: "Man on a mission.....biggest party in sports @CPL and @SLUZouks we here to crash this party.. we here to play."

Coached by Hampshire legend Andy Roberts, the St Lucia Zouks were due to play Guyana Amazon Warriors last night.



Pic @EdwardsFidel/Twitter

T20 game to go pink

THE Ageas Bowl will turn pink for Hampshire's NatWest T20 Blast match against Glamorgan on Friday.

As part of 'Ladies Day', the ground will be lit a different hue to raise money and increase awareness for a new breast cancer support centre.

Young female cricketers will take part in the pre-match T20 Skills Challenge.

There will also be themed retailers on site and exclusive offers available from the UK's first Hilton eforea spa which includes eight treatment rooms, spa pool, salon and a nail bar at the Ageas Bowl.

The new breast cancer support centre will be based in Titchfield when it opens in October. It will be run by The Haven, a charity that helps patients and their families cope with the wider impact of breast cancer through one-to-one specialist care.

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



Gareth Berg bowling against Somerset this week (Pic: Chris Moorhouse)

Adams: Berg's bowling's a bonus

JIMMY Adams admits he has been surprised by the quality of Gareth Berg's bowling - and delighted with his recent batting form.

All-rounder Berg returns to Lord's tomorrow for his first game at the ground he used to call home since Middlesex released him.

He is in the form of his life as he prepares to prove a point to his former employers, having taken 25 wickets at 26 and made 396 runs at 36 for Hampshire in the LV County Championship so far this season.

Berg has made 99 and 86 at a fluent rate in Hampshire's last two Championship matches and took 4-67, his best figures for four years, against Somerset.

Hampshire captain Adams said: "Berg's been incredibly consistent with the ball, he's been the standout bowler. I thought he would fit strongly into the unit but he's now leading the attack rather than sharing that responsibility. He's been excellent."

"At the start of the year he was shy of the runs we thought he was capable of but he's proved us right in the last few weeks. He's batted



Gareth Berg batting during his 98-ball 99 against Sussex (LMI Photography)

beautifully."

Adams is determined for another positive reaction to a humbling defeat following the nine-wicket loss against Somerset.

"I was more disappointed with our performance at home to Worcestershire and we managed to turn things around after that - we

need to do the same again," he continued.

"The lads are aware of what we need to do better and we need to start by putting in four good days at Lord's."

"At least we've had an extra day to get in the right frame of mind for the next game, but it will take old-

fashioned hard work.

"There's still a long way to go but we need to show more consistency and that's consistency within games."

"We can't afford sessions where we slip so far behind it's hard to get it back."

Berg and Adam Wheater have been Hampshire's best batsmen in the last two matches.

"You always want more runs from the top order, individually and collectively and I would dearly like a big score," continued Adams.

"We're probably too reliant on the lower and middle order to bail us out. Bergy's been excellent and Wheats has a natural high-scoring ability."

"It just needs a few of us at the top of the order to stick a good partnership together."

Hampshire will be playing their first first-class match at Lord's since Shane Warne was frustrated into using an 11-man attack, with fielders stood outside the boundary, in 2006. They have been back for the one-day final wins of 2009 and 2012 and the T20 success of 11 days ago. But Hampshire have not won a Championship match at Lord's since 1999.

Hants' tribute to their 16 Wisden stars

HAMPSHIRE legend Trevor Jesty has unveiled a new board at The Ageas Bowl celebrating the county's Wisden Cricketers of the year.

The former Hampshire and England all-rounder, who was one of the five Wisden Cricketers of 1983, unveiled the board on the first floor of the Arlott Atrium during the tea interval on Monday, the second day of the LV County Championship match against Somerset.

Hampshire is the sixth of the 18 counties to display a board naming the recipients of the award, at the request of Wisden.

Gosport-born Jesty is one of 16 Hampshire cricketers to have received the award. He was a recipient, along with county teammate Malcolm Marshall, in 1983.

That was the year he made all ten of his England appearances, earning a place in the 1983 World Cup squad following his best season for Hampshire in the County Championship; 1,645 runs at 58 and 35 wickets at 21 apiece.

After unveiling the board, he said: "It's an honour not only to be here but to be on the board alongside so many illustrious names."

Dave Allen, Hampshire's honorary archivist, said: "It was particularly



Trevor Jesty, centre

fitting that Jesty should unveil the board. Not only is he one of those named but he is one of just two men on it born within the county, the other being Peter Sainsbury."

Jesty unveiled the board alongside Wisden co-editor Hugh Chevallier (left) and Chris Lane (Picture by Brian Scrimshaw).

Hampshire's Wisden Cricketers of the Year (recipients can only be awarded the accolade once): 1900 Major Robert Montagu Poore; 1911 Charlie Llewellyn; 1912 Phil Mead; 1914 Hon Lionel Tennyson; 1933 Alec Kennedy; 1959 Roy Marshall, Derek Shackleton; 1969 Barry Richards; 1974 Peter Sainsbury; 1975 Andy Roberts; 1977 Gordon Greenidge; 1983 Trevor Jesty, Malcolm Marshall; 1984 Chris Smith; 1990 Robin Smith; 2006 Kevin Pietersen.

Wisden, the cricketers' annual almanack started by John Wisden in 1863, named six bowlers of the year from 1889, before naming their five cricketers of the year based on noteworthy performances the previous season.

LOCAL CRICKET



Bothwell Chapungu



History rewritten near to birthplace of cricket

JOHN Nyren may have turned in his grave.

The sight of anyone scoring a century off 49 balls, within a mile of Broadhalfpenny Down – where cricket had its origins, with two wooden stumps and a single bail, back in the mid-18th century – could never have been contemplated.

Enter 27-year-old Zimbabwean Bothwell Chapungu, from KweKwe, a country town six hours out of Harare, across dusty, pot hole-filled roads, writes Mike Vimpany.

The left-hander, who plays Logan Cup cricket for the Mid-West Rhinos in his native Zimbabwe, wrote a new chapter of Hambledon history less than a mile away from the 'Cradle of Cricket' itself and little more than two weeks after arriving in the country for the first time.

Playing only his second competitive match for Hursley (he bagged a second ball duck in the first against Sparsholt), Chapungu smashed an unbeaten 111 off just 49 balls, with exactly 100 coming in boundaries.

"It's probably one of the fastest ever scored at the birthplace of cricket," said Hursley's Director of Cricket Ian Watson.

Chapungu went on his boundary blitz after Hambledon had collapsed from 113-2 (Shane Nkomo 40) to 151 all out, with Derek Manning (4-22) and Oli Green (4-32) doing the damage.

"I told Bothwell to go have a look at the bowling and become accustomed to the pitch. I said that if he was still there in the 40th over, we'd win the game," he said.

Farce

The 27-year-old left-hander, didn't mess about, effectively finishing the game single handed by the first ball of the 18th over.

He slapped boundaries all around the ground – his two sixes and 22 fours equating to exactly 100 runs crossing the rope.

All Hambledon captain Rob Atkins could do was wave the proverbial white flag.

"He was just far too good for our standard of cricket and turned the game into a bit of a farce," Atkins groaned.

"Not only did he score 111, he saved 20-odd in the field. He was brilliant."

Sites face challenge in opener

SPARSHOLT and Rowledge look to have their hands full in tomorrow's opening Davidstow Village Cup round.

Chiltern League side Wraysbury leave their splendid ground alongside the River Thames at Windsor to play Sparsholt, while Rowledge host Kent League team Sibton Park.

Wraysbury currently lie third in the Chilterns League, with Jayesh Mohan among a handful of talented Asian cricketers in their ranks.

But, at this level, Sparsholt have match winners of their own and, with a full-strength side on duty at the Norman Edwards Ground, will be looking to make home advantage count.

Sparsholt: Worth, Haworth, Dunford, Tognarelli, Vokes, Jenner, Foster, N Doubell, M Doubell, Dilley, Gough.

Rowledge lost to Sibton Park the last time they met the Folkestone club, who play their Saturday cricket alongside one time Kent League heavyweights Gore Court, Gravesend, Holmesdale and St Lawrence & Highland Court.

David Lloyd's prospects are handicapped by the absence of left-hand opener Chris Yates, who is on a school football tour to the USA, but otherwise Rowledge are at full strength for the School Lane tie.

Rowledge: D Lloyd, N Morant, R Yates, I Metcalfe, J Wish, R Forbes, B Wish, C Yates snr, T Wheatley, G Keeley, W Davies.

The other southern ties feature Dinton v Langleybury, Findon v Rottingdean, Goatacre v Wembdon, Roche v Nyntawie.

● Havant will have to avenge last season's close run defeat by Sussex Premier League high fliers Roffey if they are to progress into the quarter-finals of the ECB Royal London national club championship.

They suffered the misery of a penultimate ball defeat at Roffey, on the eastern outskirts of Horsham, having posted 275-7 in the zone final – only to be beaten by Rohit Jagota's 149 not out.

Roffey are pressing Preston Nomads hard at the top of the Sussex League again this season and, with home advantage, will fancy their chances again on Sunday, July 12.

Havant reached the last 16, amassing 268-9 (Richard Hindley 57) at Bemerton last week before restricting a half-strength South Wilts to 246, Tom Morton and Jack Mynton hitting fifties.

The remainder of the Royal London draw is: Brentwood v Blackheath, Ealing v Swardeston, Bath v Sunbury.

CAPTAIN LEADS TRIBUTE

FORMER Hampshire captain Mark Nicholas has led the tributes to former United Services, Portsmouth head groundsman Doug Welsh, who died recently, aged 92.

"I have so many happy memories of the ground at Portsmouth and first among them is the superb pitches prepared by Dougie," he said...

"They always had pace, which makes for exciting cricket. The driest ones turned as well so everyone was in the game."

"Above all else, I remember thrilling championship wins while conveniently try to forget the odd disastrous loss."

"Malcolm Marshall loved to bowl there and most of our guys liked to bat there too."

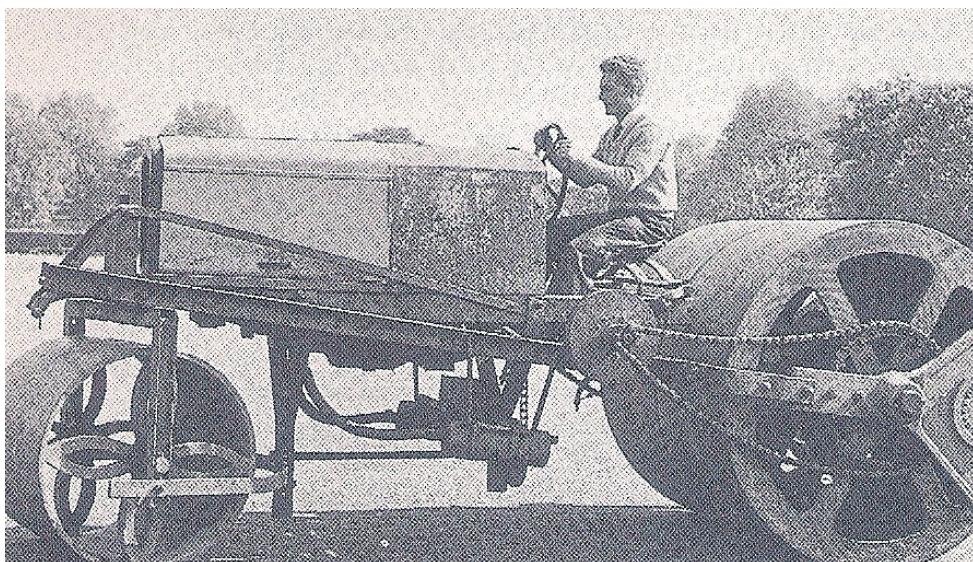
"The crowds were good, the cheese rolls superb and Sunday League games felt like a party."

"It was so sad when the county stopped playing in Portsmouth."

"Bravo Dougie. Without your genius – and that epic roller – our days there would not be so clear in the mind and so fond in the memory."

Doug devoted 47 years of his life to the Burnaby Road sports ground, which hosted top quality cricket, hockey and rugby during the National Service era, when Untied Services attracted some of the biggest names in sport to the city.

The rugby team boasted an all international back line and the US cricket team was one of the strongest



Doug Welsh devoted 47 years of his life to the up keep of the Burnaby Road sports ground

around. "The hockey pitches were pristine, like a billiard table, so magnificent that you were never able to knock up on them before the game began," recalled ex-Fareham hockey captain, Paul Jones.

"That Burnaby Road was maintained to such a high level was largely due to Doug, who was a familiar sight driving the enormous heavy roller (pictured), nicknamed Hercu-

les, which was subsequently sold off to the Army at Aldershot and can now be found at RMA Sandhurst."

Bob Wheeldon worked alongside Doug at the US Ground for over 20 years.

"He taught me so much, in fact, virtually everything I know about groundsmanship. I'm still doing things now that he taught me. He was a master craftsman of his trade,"

said Wheldon, looking out over the Portsmouth Grammar School playing fields he has manicured since leaving Burnaby Road.

Tragically, Doug lost his son Stephen last month in a traffic accident in Spain.

Stephen grew up with a hockey stick and cricket bat in hand and played both sports at Bath lane, Fareham, where he was much liked.

LOCAL CRICKET



Bashley (Rydal). Standing (from left): Luke Webb, Chris Ridley, Tom Andrews, Josh Digby, Nick Baker, Tom Jacques.
Seated: Jake Lilley, Kevin Nash, Michael Porter, Sam Thomson.

WIN EARNS THIRD SPOT

PROSPECTS are looking good for Bashley (Rydal), who have climbed into third spot in the ECB Southern Electric Premier Division table on the back of four wins from their last five matches.

The New Forest club also has an attractive Electric Twenty20 Cup quarter-final tie next month, against St Cross Symondians (July 26), besides a New Forest CA President's Cup final against either Calmore Sports or Langley Manor.

Only defending champions South Wilts have interrupted a fine Bashley run, which has seen victories over Lymington, Ventnor, St Cross Symondians and, last weekend, Salisbury Athletic.

Curiously, Bashley are on their third captain of the season – Richard Morris having stepped down after a fortnight, replaced by Simon Watkins.

Sabbatical

Now Watkins has gone on a five-week working sabbatical, he has left Southampton Solent University batsman Michael Porter at the helm – a job he thoroughly enjoys.

"I love skippering and to give South Wilts such a run for their money in my first match in charge and then beat Salisbury Athletic has been very rewarding," Porter said.

"We've got a very decent side, with two quality spinners in my Dorset teammate Sam Thomson and Tom Andrews, from South Australia, who is bowing better and better as the weeks go on."

"They've got 31 wickets between them."



Bashley (Rydal) II. Standing (from left): Jason Eede, Andy Neal, Johnny Bettle, Sean Read, Ryan Taylor, Callum Maher.
Front: Paul Kemp, Dan Friedman, Chris Gates, Simon Ridley, Neil Taylor.

Bashley, who face a stern Premier Division test at Havant today, crushed Fawley by nine wickets to set up a home meeting in the SE t20 Cup in late July.

Bashley (Rydal) II became the first second team to lift a Southern Electric Premier League title when they won Division 3 last season.

But, minus four of the side that lifted the championship – injured skip-

per Phil Morris, James Rapson, Josh Digby and James Underwood – Bashley lost their first five matches of the season and looked odds-on to go back down again.

Things seem to have changed around just as dramatically though, with Bashley winning their last three matches and, last weekend, shattering table-topping Portsmouth's unbeaten start to the campaign.

They reduced the Southsea seasid-

ers from 141-2 to 219 all out and gleefully polished off the target to win by two wickets, with four balls to spare.

Evergreen duo Neil Taylor (4-35) and Andy Neal (3-42) worked their way through the Portsmouth in-

nings. Bashley's successful run chase largely hinged on third-wicket pair Callum Maher (52) and Andy Neal, whose unbeaten 49 proved to be a match winner.

Tytherley hold tight to top spot

THE sixth league week of the Taurus Hampshire Border League on the week of the longest day saw East Tytherley enhance their lead at the top of the Premier Division.

Tytherley defeated Trojans at Stoneham Lane by 18 runs, despite losing their top three batsmen for three runs.

Liam Poolman (35) turned the innings around and three wickets by Tim Slade kept Trojans at bay.

Cadnam had a good win at Calmore Sports.

George Woodhall hit a brisk 46 for Calmore but they did not score enough runs to trouble Cadnam, a half century for Shoab Ali leading the visitors home.

Bramshaw shocked OTs & Romsey A, beating them comfortably by 17 runs.

A 91-run opening stand by Tom Arnold, pictured, and Jim Coombs took them to a challenging 166-6, and the Romsey side were never in the chase.



Division One is led by Paultons, with their neighbours Calmore Sports B in close contact.

Paultons ran out easy winners over Redlynch & Hale.

Their nine-wicket victory was thanks to Nathan Feltham's 92, in which he hit seven fours and six sixes.

Calmore's victory at Nomansland was also a double header for the Plate quarter-final and they beat the home side by a 63-run margin.

Jack Nicholson scored 30 but the mainstay of the innings was 70 from Ben Perry (10 fours).

Lyndhurst & Ashurst, thanks to Rob Norris' 44, won by seven wickets against Old Netley & Highfield.

In Division Two, Mottisfont defeated top of the table Totton and Eling to open up the table.

There was a win for OTs and Romsey Academy over Whiteparish, the 45-run margin assisted by four wickets for Barney Hayes.

Michelmersh & Timsbury ran out winners over Ampfield & North Baddeley by five wickets.

Local cricket nostalgia ... local cricket nostalgia

GOSPORT BOROUGH (1986):

Back row (from left): R Cawte, Bob Hudson, Dave Jenkins, John Wassell, Terry Lewis, Barry World. Front: N Cunningham, P Tugwell, Mick Swain, Paul Langley, Ray Porter.

Order no: 10605883



HAMBLEDON (1995): Back row (from left): Peter Wood, Simon James, Robert Turner, Matt Jones, Simon Clapham, Calvin Finch. Front: John Barrett, Mark Le Clerq, Derek Kenway, Mike De Mellow, Mike Hamson.

Order no: 10605884



HYDE (1981): From left: Alan Hayward (New Forest Cricket Club Association batsmen of the year), Jimmy Gray, Maurice Geary of Clamore (Division 3), John Stimson of Hyde (Division 1), Gerry Rickman of Brockenhurst (Division 2).

Order no: 10605892



LOCKS HEATH (1996): Colts Scott Jones, left, and Tim Stokes receive their awards from Adie Aymes, second left, and Tony Middleton.

Order no: 10606426


LYMPINGTON CC (1981):

From left: Richard Truscott (2nd XI player of the year), Jonathan Harvey (first XI player of the year), Simon Vincent (most promising colt), Dick Page (Clubman Trophy).

Order no: 10606430


HURSLEY PARK (1984):

Back row (from left): Rick Kellaway, Paul Davis, Paul Mead, Peter Bunney, Neil Warren, Frank Thow, Chris Mitchell. Front: Simon Arnold, Paul Wright, Chris Westbrook, Brian Loveridge, Adie Aymes.

Order no: 10606432


HAPPY DAYS:

Hursley Park celebrate a double trophy success in 1992, including the National Village Knockout, winning the final at Lord's.

Order no: 10606437



HURSLEY PARK (1992): Back row (from left): Derek Crookes, Tom Burns, Mike Oliver, Nick Best, Dave Fox, Chris Westbrook. Front: Adrian Small, Gary Oliver, Frank Thow, Clive Surry, Martin Kellaway.

Order no: 10606439

DAILY ECHO AND PINK - ALWAYS BEST FOR LOCAL CRICKET ... THEN AND NOW!

Local cricket nostalgia ... local cricket nostalgia



MASTLOEX CC (1995): Back (l-r): David Dunnet, Alistair Robbins, Andy Baigent, Nick Illingsworth, Richard Jablonski, Dean Gale. Front: Dave Cook, Kevin Jones, Lee Lampard, Martin Cove, Lee Evans.

Order no: 10618795.



HAVANT (1990): British Gas Southern League winners (back l-r): Phil Loat, Robin Johns, Hohn Slatcher, Garry Shotton, Mark Copping, Tim Roads. Front: Dominic Carson, Paul Gover, Mike Edwards, Jon Osborne, Damian Carson.

Order no: 10617957



FORDINGBRIDGE (1983): Captains (l-r): Tim Bailey, Pip Elkins, Cliff Godwin and Alan Dunkley.

Order no: 10617928



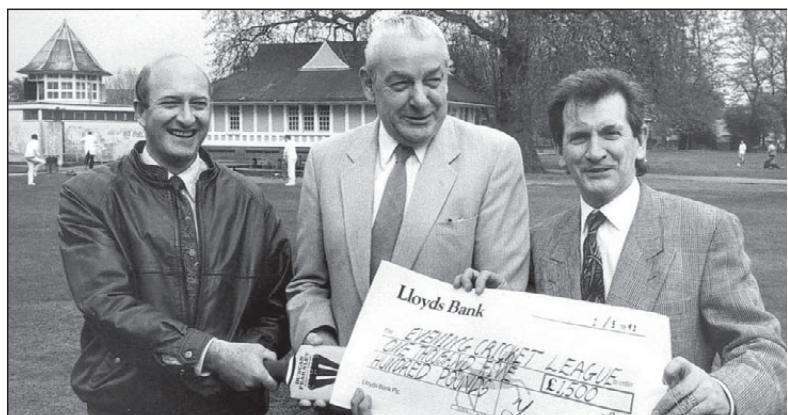
HYTHE & DIBDEN (1982): Back (l-r): Tom Dexter, Terry Evans, Mike Swanton, Wayne Effeny, Terry Rawlins, Trevor Russell, Steve House. Front: Trevor Jerrim, David Price, George Knights, Brian Sexton, Hedley Wooldridge

Order no: 10618020



LONGPARISH (1991): Back row (from left): Simon Paine, John Checkley, Keith Sutcliffe, Pat Littlehales, Bob Sturt, Paul Bradbury. Front: Garry Gibbons, Alan North, Ian Williams, Paul Collins, Kelvan Finch.

Order no: 10618768



EVENING CRICKET LEAGUE (1991): Trevor Mitchell (right) hands over the giant cheque to Roger Winkworth (left) and chairman Doug Perry.

Order no: 10617941



CRICKET ASSOCIATION AWARDS 1986: Ventnor captain Sam Garaway (right), receives the Palmer Cup from Valerie Palmer. Also pictured, the Morey awards (left to right): Derek Mursell of Moreys, George Wickens of Ryde Cavaliers, Keith Golding of Newport and Steve Brown of St.Helens.

Order no: 10618089



HYTHE & DIBDEN (1987): Back row (from left): S Locke, P Whitlock, R Swallow, R Skerry, S Tinson, P Denton. Front row: T Evans, S House, G Knights (captain), H Wooldridge and M Wiltshire.

Order no: 10618780

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Riva del Garda Just 50 metres from the crystal clear water's edge and quaint little harbour at the resort of Riva Del Garda. Centrally located overlooking the harbour piazza and close to cafés, shops and bars. All rooms ensuite with TV. Lake View room up-grades available at only £50pp extra.

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LOTS TO DO AND SEE

Your stay at Lake Garda also gives you plenty of time to enjoy all that the Lake has got to offer. The cable car to the top of Monte Baldo is highly recommended because the view from 5,643 feet is utterly breathtaking. Another might be market day in Riva del Garda. Traditional stalls on the medieval streets compete with the trendy boutiques for your Euros. Another must are boat trips from Riva del Garda. Sadly the time will come when you've got to board the flight home only after a holiday of a lifetime.

"Thank you. It was our fourth consecutive holiday to Lake Garda - and by far the best! The flights, reps and hotel were all first class."

Imagine yourself being serenaded by a gondolier as you make your way along the Grand Canal and underneath the Rialto Bridge. Verona too is a fantastic city with its amphitheatre and Romeo and Juliet's balcony to name just two of its many stunning landmarks.

When you arrive in Italy you will be whisked by coach direct to the resort. Malcesine is the oldest town on the lake and has managed to preserve much of its ancient charm and character, and offers fantastic views of the snow-capped mountains in the distance. Riva del Garda is one of the most fashionable and sought after destinations on the whole of Lake Garda, enjoying special views both across and down the lake.

Your holiday INCLUDES two fantastic tours to Venice and Verona. Few cities in the world are 'must-see' places but Venice is at the top of the list! Close your eyes and ...

Tough away start for Bush Hill at runners-up

BUSH Hill face a tricky start to their Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League campaign.

Eugene McManus's Millbrook-based outfit will kick off the 2015-16 season away to last season's Premier Division runners-up Baffins Milton Rovers.

Reigning champions Hamble Club must also hit the road on Saturday, August 1, away to Liss Athletic, who finished third to bottom last term.

QK Southampton launch into the new campaign with four home matches – against Headley United on August 1, Locks Heath on August 4 (6.45pm), Infinity on August 8 and Hedge End Rangers on August 11 (6.30pm).

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Opening fixtures – Saturday, August 1

Premier Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v Bush Hill, Clanfield v Hedge End Rangers, Liphook Utd v Locks Heath, Liss Athletic v Hamble Club, Otterbourne v Paulsgrove, QK Southampton v Headley Utd, Stockbridge v Infinity, Winchester Castle v Fleetlands.

Tuesday, August 4

Premier Division: (6.45pm kick-offs) Baffins Milton Rovers v Liphook Utd, Otterbourne v Infinity, QK Southampton v Locks Heath, Stockbridge v Hamble Club, Winchester Castle v Headley Utd.

Wednesday, August 5

Premier Division: (6.45pm kick-offs) Bush Hill v Hedge End Rangers, Clanfield v Fleetlands, Colden Common v Paulsgrove, Liss Athletic v Overton Utd.

Saturday, August 8

Premier Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v Colden Common, Bush Hill v Headley



Bush Hill celebrate a goal in last season's Hampshire Premier League campaign. They face a difficult opener to the 2015-16 season against last term's runners-up Baffins Milton Rovers.

Utd, Fleetlands v Liss Athletic, Liphook Utd v Hamble Club, Otterbourne v Hedge End Rangers, Overton v Clanfield, Paulsgrove v Stockbridge, QK Southampton v Infinity, Winchester Castle v Locks Heath.

Tuesday, August 11 (Kick-off 6.30)

Premier Division: Fleetlands v Hamble Club, Infinity v Baffins Milton Rovers, Otterbourne v Overton United, Paulsgrove v Locks Heath, QK Southampton v Hedge End Rangers

Wednesday, August 12 (Kick-off 6.30)

Premier Division: Bush Hill v Stockbridge, Clanfield v Liphook United, Colden Common v Winchester Castle, Liss Athletic v Headley United

Saturday, August 15

Premier Division: Bush Hill v Liss Athletic, Colden Common v Locks Heath, Fleetlands v Otterbourne, Hamble Club v Clanfield, Hedge End Rangers v Headley United, Overton United v Liphook United, Paulsgrove v QK Southampton, Stockbridge v Baffins Milton R

Division 1: AFC Petersfield v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Four Marks v Netley CS, Lyndhurst v Hayling United, Sway v Andover Lions, Upham v Broughton

Combination East: Baffins Milton Rovers Res v AFC Petersfield Res, Clanfield Res v Headley United Res, Liphook United Res v Hayling United Res, Liss Athletic Res v Fleetlands Res

Combination West: Otterbourne Res v Hamble Club Res, Overton United Res v Bush Hill Res, QK Southampton Res v Infinity Res, Winchester Cst Res v Hedge End Rangers Res

Hill Res, QK Southampton Res v Infinity Res, Winchester Cst Res v Hedge End Rangers Res

Tuesday, August 18 (6.30pm)

Premier Division: Fleetlands v Colden Common Hamble Club v Otterbourne Headley United v Baffins Milton Rovers Infinity v Clanfield Liphook United v Paulsgrove Stockbridge v Overton United Winchester Castle v Bush Hill

Wednesday, August 19 (6.30pm)

Premier Division: Hedge End Rangers v Locks Heath Liss Athletic v QK Southampton

Wessex openers

STEVE Claridge's Salisbury will kick off their debut Sydenham Premier Division season in the New Forest.

The phoenix club, risen from the ashes of the old Salisbury City, have been pitched away to Pat McManus's Brockenhurst on Saturday, August 8.

Sholing, who have dropped down from the Southern League, face a tough opener at Graham Rix's AFC Portchester.

Rix's Royals got stronger as last season progressed, eventually winding up third in the table and lifting the Sydenham League Cup.

It's the first of two Sholing games against top-notch Portsmouth opposition in the space of five days, with Moneyfields due to visit the Silverlake Arena on August 12.

James Taylor's promoted Division One champions Team Solent have no Friday or Saturday fixture, but will kick off their campaign on Monday, August 10 at home to fellow student side Andover Town.

Opening week's fixtures - Friday, August 7

Premier Division: Fawley v Bournemouth Poppies, Folland Sports v Bermonsey HH.

Division One: Christchurch v Hythe & Dibden.

Saturday, August 8

Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Salisbury, Cowes Sports v Aylesford Town, Hamworthy Utd v Fareham Town, Hordean v Blackfield & Langley, Moneyfields v Andover Town, Newport Iow v Verwood Town, AFC Portchester v Sholing, Whitchurch Utd v Lympington Town.

Division One: Alton Town v Pewsey Vale, Amesbury Town v AFC Stoneham, East Cowes Vics v Andover New Street, Fleet Spurs v Portland Utd, Laverstock & Ford v New Milton Town, Ringwood Town v US Portsmouth, Romsey Town v Tadley Calleva, Totton & Eling v Downton.

Monday, August 10

Premier Division: Team Solent v Andover Town.

Tuesday, August 11

Premier Division: Blackfield & Langley v Folland Sports, Bournemouth Poppies v Lymington Town, Fareham Town v Cowes Sports, Hamworthy Utd v Brockenhurst, Newport Iow v Hornebeam, AFC Portchester v Aylesford Town, Salisbury v Whitechurch Utd.

Wednesday, August 12

Premier Division: Sholing v Moneyfields, Verwood Town v Fawley AFC.

ISSN 0969-563X



P65p ISSN 0969-563X

Published by Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd and printed at Newsquest (Southern) Ltd, the official newspaper house, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX. Telephone 023 8042 4800. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. 126th year.

Cool customers!



Sholing under-14s.

1-0 and, thanks to some great defensive work from Jesse Acheampong – the shortest player in the team – Sholing came through another tough group game 0-0 against US Maubeuge of France.

The semi-final was another physical affair and, at 2-0 down, the Southampton lads could have thrown in the towel.

With frustration growing as the

French tackles flew in, they went man down when Toby Terry was sent off for two yellow cards. But that triggered a sensational comeback as two-goal hero Gursewak Singh forced a penalty shootout in which goalkeeper Joel Ayles shone before Kittow netted the deciding kick.

The final was a game of few chances with the teams evenly matched all over the park. Ultimately it was one

long ball that undid Sholing as JSM broke away to clinch the match and the tournament.

Sholing squad: Joel Ayles, Jamie McGonigle, Luke Sanders, Joseph Smith, Patrick Brewer, James Hall, Isaac Abraham, Billy Houghton, Jake Kittow, Toby Terry, Ollie Shapland, Owen Roles, Gergo Danyo, Gursewak Singh, Jesse Acheampong.